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1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 March 5, 1999
5 Sitnasuak Board Room
6 Nome, Alaska
7

8 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
9

10 Grace A. Cross, Chairwoman
11 Johnson P. Eningowuk, Vice Chair
12 Frances A. Degnan, Secretary
13 Toby M. Anungazuk, Jr.
14 Theodore Katcheak
15 Elmer K. Seetot, Jr.
16 Peter G. Buck
17 Perry T. Mendenhall
18
19
20 Regional Coordinator, Cliff Edenshaw
21 Court Reporter, Salena A. Hile

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 8:45 a.m.)

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'd like to call the meeting to order of the Seward Peninsula Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Today is March 5, 1999, it is now 8:45. Would Secretary Degnan please call the roll.

MS. DEGNAN: Okay. Johnson Eningowuk.

MR. ENINGOWUK: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Perry Mendenhall.

MR. MENDENHALL: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Peter Buck.

MR. BUCK: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Frances Degnan, here. Theodore Katcheak.

MR. KATCHEAK: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Grace Cross.

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Toby Anungazuk, Jr.

MR. SEETOT: I guess he'll be here shortly.

MS. DEGNAN: We'll log him in when he comes in. We have a quorum, Madame Chairman.

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. At this time I'd like to have an executive session for no more than 15 minutes with the Council, please.

MR. BRESLFORD: Madame Chair, for the record, I think we might note that this will just be a discussion session among the Council members, no decision, and that you'll be back in public session in a few minutes time and all of your business will be conducted in the public meeting.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

2

3 MR. BRESLFORD: Great, thank you.

4

5 (Off record - 8:48 a.m.)

6

7 Executive session

8

9 (On record - 9:10 a.m.)

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I will call the meeting of
12 the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
13 back at 9:10 a.m.

14

15 The second section that we have is review and adopt
16 agenda. We're now out of executive session. Is there any
17 additions to the agenda?

18

19 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair, number 9(B),
20 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management Update, I'd like to
21 include in there subsistence -- let's see this is old
22 business, I didn't know where else to stick it but since it's
23 relative to the fisheries management, I would like
24 subsistence compacting with tribal entities -- consent to be
25 included in there.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. For discussion
28 purposes.

29

30 MS. DEGNAN: For discussion purposes.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, Peter.

33

34 MR. BUCK: I don't know where we'd put -- I'd
35 like to put somewhere on number 5, open public comments, I'd
36 like to bring up the per diem and also under comments I'd
37 like to bring up the Federal registration for water
38 management and also possibly Federal takeover of public ways.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So maybe we can put
41 per diem under old business.....

42

43 MR. BUCK: Uh-huh.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:right after the
46 agency reports because it's something we have been bringing
47 up. And then the Federal management right after -- do you
48 want that right after Frances?

49

50 MR. BRELSFORD: Madame Chair, both of those

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1 items are actually in your current business. The per diem
2 item is actually now a part of your annual report and could
3 be discussed under that item, it would be number 8. It is
4 one of the key paragraphs in the annual report.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Thinking, just in order to
9 streamline where we already have things in there we wouldn't
10 need to do them two times. So then again, on the Federal
11 Register and the fisheries item, that's a major agenda item
12 on number 9.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD: So it might be easiest if we
17 addressed those all at one time.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So.....

20
21 MR. BUCK: And the possible takeover of the
22 Federal subsistence?

23
24 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. That's the focus of
25 the discussion under 9(B), the Federal Subsistence Fisheries
26 Management Update.

27
28 MS. DEGNAN: So both of -- these concerns --
29 my concern would go under there.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yours, I think, something,
32 the compact? And I'd like to stick somewhere, the structure
33 of the Federal Subsistence Board.

34
35 MR. BRELSFORD: Madame Chair, this is Taylor.
36 And again, as a suggestion, I believe the annual report might
37 be the context at which raising the Federal Board structure
38 would be the easiest.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Thank you, Taylor.
41 Anything else?

42
43 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

46
47 MR. SEETOT: I would like for the guests and
48 Staff be introduced.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes, I was going to ask --

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1 I'm sorry. So Taylor, would you like to introduce Staff or
2 should we just go around the table?

3

4 MR. MENDENHALL: Wait, wait, we're still on
5 the agenda. Review of the -- that's an agenda item. And
6 we're on the agenda right now.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sorry, nervous.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: And I think there might be
11 Staff that might want to add to the agenda since the agenda
12 was sent out in case -- we don't want to be adding -- being
13 corrected and adding what.....

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And Toby's concern, we
16 probably can discuss that.....

17

18 MS. DEGNAN: On the ptarmigan?

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, the ptarmigan issue.
21 Maybe right after proposals or maybe -- it's not really a
22 proposal but it will be a proposal in the next fall meeting.
23 So Toby can bring that up right after the proposals are
24 discussed, okay, Toby?

25

26 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there anything else
29 that anybody wants to add on?

30

31 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair, I'll move to adopt
32 the agenda if there are no further additions or changes?

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, a motion has been
35 moved to adopt the agenda as amended.

36

37 MR. BUCK: (By motion)

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Seconded by Peter Buck.
40 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All that's opposed, same
45 sign.

46

47 (No opposing responses)

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Passed unanimously.

50

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: Now you can introduce your
2 people.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Now we can do the
5 introductions. So we'll start with Taylor, I'm not sure if
6 you want to introduce the Staff people or just go around the
7 table, whatever is easiest for you.

8
9 MR. BRESLFORD: Thank you, Madame Chair. I'm
10 Taylor Brelsford and I work with the Office of Subsistence
11 Management. But I'm sure if it would be best for us to kind
12 of get to know each other and work together if each of the
13 people can introduce themselves rather than me.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we'll go this way.

16
17 MS. DEGNAN: Donna Dewhurst, biologist for
18 the team with the Fish and Wildlife Service Subsistence
19 Office.

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm Helen Armstrong and
22 I'm the cultural anthropologist on the team that works with
23 this Council.

24 MR. ANUNGAZUK: I'm Toby Anungazuk from
25 Wales.

26
27 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig
28 Mission.

29
30 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck, White Mountain.

31
32 MS. DEGNAN: Frances Degnan, Unalakleet.

33
34 MR. KATCHEAK: Theodore Katcheak, Stebbins.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Grace Cross, Nome.

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: Perry Mendenhall from Nome.

39
40 MR. ENINGOWUK: Johnson Eningowuk,
41 Shishmaref.

42
43 MR. OLANNA: Jake Olanna, Subsistence
44 Research Specialist, Kawerak.

45
46 MR. DeCICCO: Fred DeCicco, Alaska Department
47 of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division.

48
49 MS. GEORGETTE: I'm Susan Georgette,
50 Subsistence Division in the Fish and Game Department in

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1 Kotzebue.

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Kate Persons, Fish and Game,
4 Wildlife Division, Nome.

5

6 MR. TOCKTOO: Fred Tocktoo, National Park
7 Service, Subsistence Division.

8

9 MR. EDENSHAW: Cliff Edenshaw, Coordinator
10 for the Council here.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, Subsistence
13 Program Coordinator for the Western Arctic National Park
14 lands, National Park Service.

15

16 MR. HUNTER: Paul Hunter, National Park
17 Service, Subsistence Specialist.

18

19 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean, I'm the area
20 biologist for Commercial Fisheries and I manage the
21 subsistence fishery here in Nome.

22

23 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA,
24 Subsistence Staff Committee member.

25

26 MR. DENTON: I'm Jeff Denton. I'm a
27 biologist and subsistence specialist for the Anchorage Field
28 Office of BLM.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All right, thank you very
31 much and welcome to our meeting.

32

33 There is a sign-up sheet that's floating around
34 somewhere. I've not signed in but if we could find it and
35 pass it around for everyone to sign it. I want to welcome
36 everybody to our meeting, like I said, and I hope our meeting
37 will be a productive one.

38

39 I'd like to move on to review and adoption of the
40 minutes of September 23, 1998 meeting, which is on Tab R. I
41 think, Frances, if you would just perhaps not read it but go
42 page by page to see if there are any additions.

43

44 MS. DEGNAN: Well, looking.....

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I mean just for
47 purpose of -- I make the motion -- to get the action rolling,
48 for official approval.

49

50 MS. DEGNAN: I second the motion.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Moved by Perry Mendenhall,
2 second by Frances to approve the minutes of September 23,
3 1998.

4
5 MS. DEGNAN: And if there are any
6 corrections, the Council members can offer the corrections.
7 I have a correction on Page, 1, 2, 3, 4 -- Page 5, middle of
8 the page. Just insert the last name, it would be Fran said
9 she would defer -- that would be Fran Degnan. And I'd
10 appreciate all the full names being used.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And on Page 1, 2, 3, under
13 new business, about the time -- at the bottom it says, the
14 Council remained neutral in this issue. I thought that there
15 was a position made but perhaps I'm wrong. If we could check
16 into the minutes of the last meeting and perhaps -- where's
17 our Coordinator, oh, there you are, perhaps you can, at some
18 point in time today, check into that.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: What page.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: One, two, three, under new
23 business.

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: The third paragraph.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The Council remained
28 neutral on this issue, on the ptarmigan.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: I thought we took action on
31 that.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I thought we took action
34 on that, too.

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: That we wanted it to be
37 started on April -- on August 10th.....

38
39 MS. DEWHURST: No. No you didn't. There was
40 no proposal made.

41
42 MS. HILDEBRAND: That doesn't mean they
43 remained neutral.

44
45 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I mean they decided not
46 to have a proposal submitted at that -- they decided not to
47 submit a proposal at that time. I mean I'm not dickering
48 over the words, but you decided not to submit a proposal or
49 change.

50

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But I think we decided to
2 let it remain a status quo.....

3
4 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:perhaps the State was
7 changing it so there was some action. We didn't remain
8 neutral on it. We were saying we'd rather.....

9
10 MS. DEWHURST: Yes, you're right. You
11 decided to keep the current season.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, to keep the current
14 season until, I guess, a proposal is made. But we didn't
15 want to change it along with the State.

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: We'll get a chance now with
18 Toby.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, is there.....

21
22 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, on Page 1, typo on
23 Fred Tocktoo.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Again.

26
27 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Every year.

30
31 MR. SEETOT: Call to order, roll call, be
32 changed.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Pardon me?

35
36 MR. SEETOT: Typo on the roll.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, okay. That was called
39 to order, right after the -- the R-O-L-E. Is there any other
40 corrections?

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Call for the question has
45 been made.

46
47 MR. KATCHEAK: Question.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been called.
50 All is in favor of approving the minutes of September 23,

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1 1998 with.....

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: As corrected.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:with the recommended
6 corrections signify by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed.

11

12 (No opposing responses)

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The minutes have been
15 approved unanimously. And we'll go on to the next agenda
16 item. I want to make sure that the entire day will be an
17 open floor to public comments on the Federal Subsistence
18 Management Program, and will continue throughout the day. So
19 if anybody would like to address the Council, please let us
20 know. And where Mr. Denton is sitting is where people will
21 be talking. So if you need to address the Council, please
22 identify yourself and take his seat and address the Council.

23

24 MR. DENTON: Yeah, my name is Jeff Denton.
25 I'm with BLM of the Anchorage Field Office. A suggestion, at
26 least, from my standpoint on the minutes where there are
27 references to reports that were made, especially the agency
28 reports, I don't know if it would be of value to you folks,
29 but certainly to me when I go back and review these, I would
30 like to see copies of those reports included in the minutes
31 as attachments.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: An addendum.

34

35 MR. DENTON: As an addendum to those so we
36 have reference to those, for my standpoint as well as yours.
37 Just a suggestion.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Denton.
40 Okay, then we'll go on to the -- I'll ask first, is there
41 anybody that would like to address the Council at this time
42 before we go into the proposals?

43

44 Well, hearing no volunteers we'll go on to proposals.
45 We'll start with A, biological/socio-cultural analysis with
46 Donna Dewhurst.

47

48 MS. DEWHURST: We have two proposals today,
49 46/47 under Tab S. You were handed a copy of a couple of
50 tables, on Page 13 under that tab under the analysis the

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1 wrong table was put in. You probably noticed it if you were
2 reading along, it's a proposal on muskox and suddenly there's
3 a sheep table in there. That was the wrong -- just in
4 printing. She was printing a lot of these at the same time.
5 You were just handed out the correct two tables that should
6 go in place of the sheep table. The sheep table doesn't
7 belong in here.

8

9 MS. DEGNAN: When I saw that it reminded me
10 of the story my father told me about Golsovia Charlie down in
11 Golsovia where a mountain sheep came down and it went into
12 Golsovia so I says, oh, we do have C&T for sheep in our
13 region.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I thought was Kenny was
16 going to be adopting some sheep.

17

18 MS. DEWHURST: There are two proposals, the
19 analysis is lumped but I'm going to actually discuss them
20 separately.

21

22 We'll start with Proposal 46, 46 is fairly simple, in
23 that, this one is probably the non-controversial one, that's
24 why I thought it might be better to take the two separately.
25 46 is just taking the special action that when we came up
26 with the working group, and we came up with a combined State
27 and Federal muskox hunt in 22(D) or -- well, all 22, 22(D),
28 (E) and 23 is what it is. It was done out of cycle. And
29 whenever we do something out of the normal proposal cycle it
30 has to be a special action. Special actions are only good
31 for one year, one season. So that new -- combo State/Federal
32 hunt was only good for one season so Proposal 46 would make
33 that hunt -- the new combo hunt a permanent regulation or a
34 long-term regulation. So it would take what we've started
35 and put it on the books long-term so we wouldn't have to
36 renew it every year. This would just put it on the books.

37

38 So it's a fairly simple proposal. The hunt would be
39 the hunt that was established, the August 1st through April
40 15th in 22(D), (E) and 23, the southern portion of 23. And
41 it's the five percent. The breakdown, that's where the table
42 comes in, it shows Table 2 on the ones that were handed out,
43 it shows the breakdown between State and Federal permits for
44 1999 on the first part of the top row kind of, it shows how
45 many muskox were hunted in the last -- the survey, the 1998
46 survey, and then how the breakdown of the permits. And that
47 was done at the working group meeting with the different
48 villages. Each village decided how they wanted to divvy it
49 up between the State and the Federal permits. In some cases
50 they had to -- people had to go back to their village and the

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1 decision was phoned in later.

2

3 So this whole process was working pretty intensely
4 with the individual villages and there was a lot of
5 cooperative effort to come up with this hunt. So this
6 summarizes -- Table 1 kind of summarizes where we're at right
7 now with the combination State/Federal hunt. Table 2
8 summarizes the harvest that's occurred in the past -- or
9 excuse me, Table 3 is the harvest that's occurred in the
10 past. So that's what these two tables that were just handed
11 out that were missing from your analysis.

12

13 So basically in a nutshell Proposal 46 is just to
14 make this new system permanent or long-term. Are there any
15 questions?

16

17 MR. ADKISSON: Donna.

18

19 MS. DEWHURST: Do you want to come up?

20

21 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
22 Service. Donna, I think in your Staff analysis you mentioned
23 a season closing date of April 15th. The actual regulation,
24 I believe is March 15th.

25

26 MS. DEWHURST: Oh, you're right.

27

28 MR. ADKISSON: And that's what all the
29 previous discussions.....

30

31 MS. DEWHURST: My mistake.

32

33 MR. ADKISSON:were from the
34 cooperators, just to clarify that point.

35

36 MS. DEWHURST: Yes.

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: The season is August 1 to
39 March 15th.

40

41 MS. DEWHURST: Thanks for the catch, Ken.
42 I'll have to change it -- actually it says that in the
43 proposal, I was just reading out of the analysis, so my
44 mistake, I'll have to correct that in the analysis. Good
45 catch. And that was an extension on both ends. The older
46 seasons started later and ended earlier so this season is an
47 extension on both ends of the season.

48

49 MS. DEGNAN: I just have a question on the
50 muskox.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fran.

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: Where are the permits issued out
4 of?

5

6 MS. DEWHURST: The Federal permits are issued
7 by the National Park Service here in Nome.

8

9 MS. DEGNAN: In Nome.

10

11 MS. DEWHURST: And they actually go out to
12 the individual villages. Each village issues them
13 differently. Some villages the IRA Council decides who gets
14 them and other ones they do it by drawing the names out of
15 hat. It's everybody kind of does their own thing and it's up
16 to the village to decide how they want to issue the number of
17 permits that they're given.

18

19 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

20

21 MS. DEWHURST: And then under the State
22 system, of course, there's the Tier II system where you have
23 to apply and they.....

24

25 MS. DEGNAN: At Nome? Apply to Nome?

26

27 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, through Nome.

28

29 MR. MENDENHALL: But it's at large from all
30 the state.

31

32 MS. DEGNAN: From the entire state?

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: From the entire state.

35

36 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

37

38 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, if you want, Kate
39 Persons is here if you need a better explain of Tier II, she
40 can -- I'm sure she can offer that.

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL: We were lucky to get that
43 from the State Fish and Game Board.

44

45 MS. PERSONS: Would you like an explain
46 of.....

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Can we.....

49

50 MS. PERSONS:the Tier II permits.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:after Donna, please.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: Well, I'm finished.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Are you finished -- oh,
6 sure. And then I'd like to hear from Ken Adkisson after
7 Kate.

8

9 MS. PERSONS: Kate Persons, Fish and Game,
10 Nome. With the State Tier II hunt, people have to apply on a
11 -- I should have brought a copy of the application, it's a
12 one page application and the applications have to be filled
13 out and sent in in the month of May. And I travel around to
14 each of the villages in the hunt area and announce that I'm
15 coming and am available throughout one day to help people
16 with these applications. There's a series of five questions.
17 And the application is kind of difficult to fill out if
18 you're not very familiar with how the system works. So I
19 think it is important for this hunt to work well for people,
20 that the Department make that effort to actually go to the
21 communities to help people with the applications and I'm
22 committed to doing that. And then I'm not able to mail these
23 applications for people. People are supposed to take the
24 initiative to do that themselves. Although, it may be
25 possible -- I think it is possible, I could collect them and
26 then give them to, say the IRA Council or the village
27 coordinator and the coordinator could probably mail them into
28 Anchorage.

29

30 They're scored in Anchorage. According to the
31 answers on these questions, the first question asks about
32 your history of hunting muskox or applying to hunt muskox.
33 How many years you have hunted or tried to hunt or somebody
34 in your household has hunted or applied to hunt. There's a
35 question about what percentage of your meat, big game meat
36 has come from muskox in the last five years. There's a
37 question about where you buy your food and where you buy your
38 gas. And those questions are used to determine your cost of
39 living. And those are the questions that put people from the
40 villages way ahead of people from Nome or people from the
41 other part of the state because the cost of living is much
42 higher in rural Alaska.

43

44 There is really little possibility that anybody from
45 any other part of the state could outscore somebody from
46 Wales or Shishmaref or Brevig and Teller applying to hunt
47 within their subunit. But they do have to apply and the
48 application does have to be mailed in to Anchorage before the
49 end of May.

50

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1 Peter.

2

3 MR. BUCK: When you fill out the application
4 with a certain district, it gets more points for -- like
5 22(E), 22(B), 22(C) if you can hunt in 22(D), would the 22(D)
6 people get more points for that application than the other --
7 like if you can hunt in 22(D) would the people in 22(D) get
8 more preference than 22(B) or (C).

9

10 MS. PERSONS: No.

11

12 MR. BUCK: Oh.

13

14 MS. PERSONS: No, they wouldn't. But last
15 year, there was nobody from 22(E) who applied to hunt
16 anywhere but 22(E) and the same was true for 23 southwest.
17 And Brevig and Teller, those people only applied to hunt in
18 22(D). However, there were Nome people who applied to hunt
19 in -- well, most of them applied for 22(D), but there were
20 individuals who applied to hunt in all the areas. You can
21 apply to hunt in more than one area.

22

23 MS. DEGNAN: I have a question.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fran.

26

27 MS. DEGNAN: How long do you anticipate the
28 Tier II process to be the rule?

29

30 MS. PERSONS: As long as the subsistence need
31 is greater than the number of muskox that can be harvested,
32 we'll be under a Tier II situation.

33

34 MS. DEGNAN: But do you have a time span on
35 that?

36

37 MS. PERSONS: No, we really don't.

38

39 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

40

41 MS. PERSONS: It depends on how quickly the
42 muskox population increases. And it depends on -- currently
43 the Board of Game has set 100 animals as the subsistence need
44 for the Seward Peninsula. But if we were to go -- if the
45 population were to increase down the road and we were to look
46 perhaps at some other kind of hunt, probably there would be a
47 reevaluation of what the subsistence need was on the Seward
48 Peninsula.

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: We've got to send

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1 congratulations to Charlie Lean, he got a muskox last year.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I have a question, your
4 plans for this year in assisting village hunters with
5 applications, is that going to be again?

6

7 MS. PERSONS: Yes. I will go to all the
8 villages in May and help with the applications.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: This hunting season?

11

12 MS. PERSONS: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Kate has submitted a
15 report, I don't know if all of you have it and it was faxed
16 to me on February 26th, 1999, and she has the results of the
17 State Tier II muskox hunt. And I'll give it to you and you
18 can quickly summarize for us?

19

20 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

21

22 MR. KATCHEAK: I have a question for Kate.
23 When are these applications available and where are they or
24 where can we get our applications?

25

26 MS. PERSONS: The applications are available
27 in May. And the applications are sent to the licensed
28 vendors in each of the villages if you don't live within the
29 hunt area. Within the hunt area, I go to the villages and
30 provide the applications. And then also I train somebody in
31 the village to help people fill out these permits so that, if
32 not everyone is available to do this when I'm in town there's
33 somebody there who can help people.

34

35 But if you don't live in Shishmaref or Wales or
36 Brevig or Teller or Deering or Buckland, I'm afraid I don't
37 manage to get to the other villages on the Peninsula to help
38 people. It's advertised on the radio that the applications
39 are available. And I encourage people to call on the 800
40 number to get help filling them out and a number of people
41 did do that last year.

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: Could you give your 800
44 number where we -- we were collecting 800 numbers yesterday?

45

46 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh. Yeah, 1-800-560-2271.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And Kate, perhaps --
49 there's so many questions about the applications, perhaps
50 this afternoon you can bring a few here so those Council

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1 members.....

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, I will.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:who wish to take one
6 home with them can.

7

8 MS. PERSONS: Yep, I'll do that.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

11

12 MS. PERSONS: Okay. This last year, do you
13 have a copy of this?

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

16

17 MS. PERSONS: So far, the season is not over.
18 It's not over until the 15th of this month. The table that I
19 gave you shows that in 22(D) there were 24 permits that were
20 issued and as of the 22nd of February, 10 of those 24 permits
21 had been filled. And nine permits had been issued to
22 residents of Nome and of those nine people that got permits,
23 six of them had filled their permits. In Teller, six people
24 got State Tier II permits, three of them had been filled. In
25 White Mountain, four permits were issued and actually since I
26 made out this table, two more have been taken, so now three
27 of those permits issued to White Mountain have been filled.
28 In Shishmaref, I'm not aware that any permits have been
29 filled.

30

31 Do you know, Johnson?

32

33 MR. ENINGOWUK: No, I don't.

34

35 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. And then in Wales, I'm
36 only aware of yours Toby. And in Buckland and Deering, none
37 yet have been filled. But apparently the hunters were
38 planning to go out. And every place that I called I was told
39 that, you know, the weather is just starting to get warmer
40 and the days are getting longer and now is when people are
41 starting to think about hunting.

42

43 What about Brevig, Elmer.

44

45 MR. SEETOT: Well, we're just -- the same
46 situation, I think, waiting for it to get warmer.

47

48 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. Not much longer to wait
49 though.

50

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1 MR. SEETOT: Yeah.

2

3 MS. PERSONS: The 15th it's over. So in all,
4 I'm aware of 13 of these 35 Tier II permits that have been
5 filled so far.

6

7 MR. ENINGOWUK: Is there any chance of
8 extending the deadline if the villages have run into weather
9 problems?

10

11 MS. PERSONS: No. Because the reason for the
12 season ending the 15th of March is the biological concern
13 about stressing the cow muskox, in the late stages of
14 pregnancy. The calves are born in mid-April, and -- well,
15 especially this year, gosh, you know, there's a lot more snow
16 than there's been recently and with those little short legs
17 they're pushed way, way up into the high country and there's
18 nothing up there for them to eat and they're using up their
19 reserves, and to get run around by hunting is just really
20 tough on them. I don't believe that the State would support
21 extending the season past March 15th. It was tough to even
22 make it agreed to go until the 15th. A lot of people would
23 have preferred it to stop the 1st of March. So for at least
24 the State hunt, I don't believe that's an option.

25

26 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, the 15th was an
27 extension permanent -- didn't it used to be January 30th, I
28 think.

29

30 MR. ADKISSON: January 31st, I think was the
31 original.

32

33 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, was the original Federal
34 hunt. So -- and we had a series of special actions over the
35 years extending it to sometime into March and so this is an
36 extension. And I concur with Kate, I think that you could
37 submit a special action requesting it but I don't think you'd
38 get very far is my guess.

39

40 MR. MENDENHALL: We were having to argue --
41 up in Fairbanks last year, May during the Game Board meeting
42 to have it that far, through March 15th. They had problems
43 with that at the Game Board level -- State Game Board level.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any further questions for
46 Kate? Thank you Kate.

47

48 MS. PERSONS: Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And since we're talking

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1 about muskox, perhaps, if Ken Adkisson has anything to add to
2 it, I welcome to go to the stand.

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
5 Service. I'd just like to build on really what Kate Persons
6 has already told you and sort of summarize the hunt condition
7 as it relates to the six Federally eligible villages.

8

9 Those villages, by the way are Buckland, Deering,
10 Shishmaref, Wales, Brevig Mission and Teller. Those are the
11 six villages that have positive Federal customary and
12 traditional use determinations for muskox.

13

14 Basically for those six villages there were 29
15 Federal permits issued among those six villages. Buckland
16 received five, Deering two, Shishmaref five, Wales four,
17 Brevig Mission six, and Teller six. To-date, only one
18 Federal permit has been filled and that was by a Teller
19 resident who took an animal on August 12 off of BLM lands.
20 Basically weather and sickness appear to be factors
21 contributing to the low harvest to-date. However, we expect
22 a concentrated effort will be made in these last two
23 remaining weeks of the season.

24

25 Those six villages had a little better luck using
26 their State permits. Of the six villages, they received 21
27 of the 35 available State permits. Teller received six and
28 they've filled three of theirs. Wales received four and has
29 filled one. The remaining breakdown on State permits is as
30 follows: Brevig Mission received four and has filled none.
31 Shishmaref received five and has filled none. Deering
32 received two and has filled none. And Buckland received no
33 State permits.

34

35 To sort of sum up the harvest for the six villages
36 based on information that we have at this point in time. The
37 six Federally eligible villages have harvested five muskoxen.
38 Four of those were taken with State permits. But again, you
39 know, we expect a major hunting effort in these last two
40 remaining weeks of the season.

41

42 Following the conclusion of the hunt this year we
43 plan on consulting with the villages to evaluate the hunt and
44 obtain recommendations on how the villages think future hunts
45 should be structured and that information will be provided
46 back to the Regional Advisory Councils, the local Fish and
47 Game Advisory Committees and the Federal Subsistence Board
48 and the State Board of Game. And the next muskoxen census
49 will be in the spring of 2000.

50

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions for Ken?

2
3 MR. MENDENHALL: Yes.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Perry.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: On the weather and sickness
8 up here, is that for the muskox or the hunters?

9
10 MR. ADKISSON: That's for the hunters.

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

13
14 MR. ADKISSON: I have less information on how
15 well the muskoxen are doing this year. As Kate suggested
16 there's pretty heavy snow.

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, you didn't refer to
19 either or.

20
21 MR. ADKISSON: No, in this case it's -- all
22 the villages that we've been in contact with have really had
23 a lot of bad flu problems and things and that coupled with
24 some really extremely cold periods, it's been difficult --
25 you know, it started out no snow, then heavy snow and then
26 real deep cold and then sickness in the villages and various
27 things, and it's just hard for a lot of the hunters to get
28 out. But I think they're going to make a major effort. And
29 you know, I can sympathize, you know, with Johnson, but I
30 think I have to agree with Kate and Donna that it would be
31 highly unlikely we would get an extension considering that
32 we've gone through this several years in a row. And March
33 15th was the most -- the lengthiest reasonable thing that I
34 think most of the biologists would agree to.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Perry.

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: I'd like for this to be
39 highlighted in the minutes, too.

40
41 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fran.

44
45 MS. DEGNAN: I'd like, you know, for them to
46 consider that in the event of those kind of situations where
47 there is a lot of sickness and stuff that that would be in
48 times of, you know, we're one of the lowest economic
49 development regions and the highest poverty area, that it
50 would -- those considerations should really be taken under

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1 advisement to extend the season on the request of the local
2 villages that have permits, like Shishmaref says, because of
3 the weather and because of the flu because meat source is
4 important. I mean one week, but you wouldn't want to go
5 further where it would impact the productive success of the
6 specie -- of the muskox.

7
8 But I would think -- because looking at it from a
9 village viewpoint when -- if you are going to feed your
10 families and your families generally don't have jobs, there's
11 very -- and income is very low, that I would extend the
12 season if I had that ability to do so to allow the local
13 community to put food on their table.

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you, Frances for that
16 comment. I guess at this point I'm just going to, you know,
17 go out on my own, I think, and offer an observation or an
18 opinion. It's always a tough thing to balance trying to
19 maintain healthy populations of animals with the needs of
20 people. And I might just suggest to this group that one of
21 the mechanisms that we use for working through these muskoxen
22 problems is the Muskoxen Cooperators Group. And much of the
23 season and bag limit changes that have been developed have
24 been through that Muskoxen Cooperators Group. With respect
25 to, you know, extending seasons, I would maybe suggest that
26 this body might, down the road, want to think of looking at
27 the permit distribution system and perhaps begin to raise the
28 question of community bag limits and designated hunter
29 programs and things like that that would provide more
30 flexibility. I think something like that would help to try
31 to address the concerns that you've raised Frances by
32 providing options for people to take their animals, rather
33 than limiting it to a given individual with a permit.

34
35 At the same time, I think, you know, it would -- by
36 keeping the season it would ensure that that vital protection
37 is given to those animals during that period of time.
38 Because what happens with the muskoxen is basically, as has
39 been sort of indicated, they really go into an energy deficit
40 during the winter and their whole method of survival,
41 especially in deep snow, is to park themselves and do as
42 little as possible. And if they're forced to move around a
43 lot they don't make up much of that energy, that's when they
44 die in the spring or they don't reproduce well. And the
45 season length has, you know, been extended and extended still
46 trying to provide that window of protection. And, you know,
47 I realize that circumstances occur in the villages that make
48 that difficult for individuals, and I think we should look at
49 ways to improve that situation other than, you know, change
50 the season.

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1 MS. DEGNAN: That's all I had, thank you.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: We opened the first part of
4 the season to August 1, before that last year -- before it
5 used -- end of December?

6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, the original season was,
8 I think, September 1st to December 31st -- January 31st.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: We added one month at the
11 beginning to August 1 instead of September.

12

13 MR. ADKISSON: And extended it to March 15th.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: Rather than when the
16 breeding season.....

17

18 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

19

20 MR. MENDENHALL:when they drop their
21 calves.

22

23 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Correct me if I'm wrong,
26 last year when we were talking about kind of the same issue,
27 my understanding at the time that it would be easier for the
28 State Tier II system to make emergency extensions than it is
29 for the Federal government; is that -- am I correct or not?

30

31 MS. PERSONS: No.

32

33 MS. DEWHURST: No.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Where did I get that
36 information?

37

38 MS. DEWHURST: I don't know.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So if there was to be an
41 emergency extension, there is a mechanism then in.....

42

43 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, there is.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:both areas?

46

47 MS. DEWHURST: But just as Ken was talking
48 about, with the history, we had two or three years we did
49 extensions through special actions.....

50

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

2
3 MS. DEWHURST:to go into March. The
4 original season was the end of January and with very similar
5 justification, bad snow year, you know, usually that was the
6 justification, and there was a lot of -- every year, I was
7 involved in, at least the past two years, there was a lot of
8 discussion on balancing the biology versus the human needs
9 and everybody said, okay, that's fine we can extend the
10 season, but the absolute end of the extensions is mid-March.
11 And that's -- and we did that for a couple of years. We
12 extended the season sev -- a couple of years in a row. And
13 then last year when this was made into permanent regulations,
14 we said, okay, if we're going to make this -- if we're going
15 to do this combination hunt let's make it -- make the season
16 as liberal as we can, give the people as much as we can so we
17 don't have to do anymore extensions. So that's where we said
18 August 1st on the opening date and March 15th. And we tried
19 to make it as long as we possibly could given the biology.

20
21 The biology -- it's a double-whammy situation, in
22 that, as Ken mentioned with the stress on the cows, this is
23 -- from my understanding with Pat Reynolds, who's a muskox
24 expert up north, in talking with her, the big problem is if
25 you stress the cows too much, number 1, they could abort
26 their young or their young could be born very weak and not
27 survive. The other problem is in some of those cases, it
28 also puts the cows into such a bad nutritional state, that
29 they aren't able to get pregnant that following summer so
30 they don't produce any young the next year. So not only do
31 you lose the young from this season you also don't get any
32 young being produced the next year. So it's a double-whammy,
33 basically, you can lose two years of production with one
34 shot. And that's why, you know, it seems like we're really
35 laying hard on the biology, but they found the muskox are
36 particularly sensitive to this for some reason, more than
37 other animals. And so if you stress those cows they can lose
38 the equivalent of two years worth of calves.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's those little short
41 legs.

42
43 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. And like Ken says, they
44 aren't eating anything, they're eating very little this time
45 of year and it just doesn't take much. So that's -- if it
46 seems like we're really stressing the biology so much, that's
47 why. It's the thing with the cows and the calves.

48
49 MS. DEGNAN: That's the reason why from the
50 indigenous viewpoint you never had any closed seasons.

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1 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: It was always an open period.
4 You take it so that you wouldn't stress your resource. So I
5 think the State might be coming closer to the indigenous
6 viewpoint.....

7

8 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

9

10 MS. DEGNAN:and have a no close period
11 and you can have local management. And that way it doesn't
12 stress the human, it doesn't stress the animal.

13

14 MR. SEETOT: Yeah, that's the thing from a
15 biological point of view on some of these animals, have they
16 -- or have they tried to work with reports, you know, from
17 traditional Native way of, you know, hunting, that certain
18 animals can predict what -- when spring will come -- or from
19 what I heard that hunters, our ancestors knew just by looking
20 at the animal in certain seasons, whether it was going to be
21 a long winter, early spring, and summer. And I think we have
22 a lot of that knowledge just by looking at the animals in
23 certain seasons that spring is coming early or winter is
24 going to be long.

25

26 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: You know, just by the behavior
29 of the animal. And -- or biologists, you know, come from the
30 standpoint of, you know, maybe this textbook knowledge along
31 with long-term study. Our people have lived in this area for
32 many thousands of years and they have passed on their
33 knowledge, orally, you know, most of this has not been
34 written and most of that knowledge has been lost within the
35 communities. People -- biologists talk about stressing the
36 animals, stuff like that, Fran said our people have hunted
37 when they are in season. And -- and like I said, that is
38 when those factors that we talk about, are they -- are they
39 doing any damage or are they benefitting the ecosystem when
40 the muskox are just stationed in one place during the winter.
41 There are other animals that use the land, are they sharing
42 or helping other wildlife within the area? And we just seem
43 to focus on one species. In what relation to these species
44 help or drive away other animals?

45

46 I think one of the things that our people within the
47 region are saying is that muskox resemble bears by their
48 shape and the moose, I think, you know, stay away from some
49 of these places that they have frequented, you know, for so
50 long. Is there any studies done that muskox are really

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1 helping the ecosystem or are they just there for the purpose
2 of.....

3
4 MS. DEWHURST: There is a current study being
5 done from a student at University of Alaska-Fairbanks here on
6 the Seward Peninsula but she's primarily looking at the
7 interaction between muskox and caribou. She hasn't
8 specifically, I think, looking at moose, she's mainly looking
9 at caribou and muskox because that's the big thing that's
10 been mentioned, especially on the North Slope. The concern
11 between those two species and that's what, I think, she's
12 concentrating on. She's extending her study into Northwest
13 Arctic. She's going to be doing some work up around Cape
14 Krusenstern this year. But I think she should be getting
15 pretty close to being done.

16
17 Ken, she should have her thesis out soon, I think.

18
19 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. And her name is Claudia
20 Iahl, and she's a graduate student at University of
21 Fairbanks.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Claudia?

24
25 MR. ADKISSON: Claudia.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What was her last name?

28
29 MR. ADKISSON: Iahl, I-A-H-L, I believe. And
30 it may be worth having her do a presentation to this group.
31 Right now she's pretty well tied up in defending her
32 dissertation and also preparing for some muskoxen census and
33 group composition work up at Cape Krusenstern for the Park
34 Service.

35
36 But, you know, this is a continuing issue and you
37 know, we'll be working more through the Muskoxen Cooperators
38 Group on a number of these points. And it may be possible,
39 like I say, if the group would like to, the Council, to have
40 Claudia do a muskoxen presentation for you folks.

41
42 Just a couple comments on that, I guess. You know, I
43 fully agree with Elmer that we need to have a way to bring
44 traditional knowledge together with the traditional western
45 scientific knowledge. A couple quick comments, I believe it
46 was the last Regional Advisory Council, Elmer raised the
47 question of like sourdock and impact of muskoxen on certain
48 subsistence plant species. And one thing you hear is that
49 muskoxen tear up the berry patches and eat the sourdock, and
50 I believe Elmer pointed out that after seeing that for

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1 several years he noticed where the muskoxen have ate, some of
2 the plants are coming back thicker than ever.

3
4 And during the winter time, for example, moose will
5 tend to yard up in the river valleys in the willows and
6 muskoxen will tend to sit -- go higher and try to avoid the
7 deep snow. So you know, there are biological things that
8 these animals, you know, tend to sort themselves out during
9 critical periods, I guess. And my own observation would be
10 that muskoxen and moose are most likely to -- you know,
11 interactions are likely to occur during the summer when
12 there's probably not a whole problem with stress other than
13 the fact that, you know, animals may sort of displace
14 themselves from an area temporarily.

15
16 But yeah, these are all good questions and need to be
17 looked at in one way. But scientific and research and so
18 forth is expensive but you know, we need to keep plugging at
19 it. And that's all I've got to say on the topic.

20
21 MR. BUCK: On that topic, I'd like to say the
22 -- I agree with Elmer about the, you know, the closing of the
23 season. Traditionally, especially with the walrus and ogook
24 (ph), you're talking about stressful they're having before
25 they have their cows, but with walrus and ogook, the elders
26 used to like the babies (indiscernible) born, and then their
27 eggs, and that would be a special delicacy for the elders.

28
29 And I don't know if about the muskox, you know, this
30 -- the muskox users, the traditional people have their way of
31 controlling the population but maybe they won't get during
32 breeding season and anything like that, but they do have
33 preferences and their season go and close. If you can go
34 from this time of the year and that next time -- this year --
35 next year and say, okay, we've got so much muskox that we're
36 taking and that was it and then go to the next time next year
37 and then you wouldn't have a closed season but it'd be --
38 actually you'd still keep track of how much muskox are being
39 taken.

40
41 MS. DEWHURST: Keep in mind with muskox we do
42 have one thing on all of our sides, we do have history. And
43 to kind of pull in the big picture, muskox, of course, as
44 many of you remember, were reintroduced to this area. They
45 came from stock up in Greenland. And the reason they were
46 reintroduced was because they were wiped out and in the mid-
47 1800s, sometime, we don't know the exact dates but sometime
48 in the 1800s. And it was -- the best thought on what
49 happened to the muskox and why they disappeared out of
50 Alaska, it wasn't just hunting. Hunting was a contribution.

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1 There was hunting going on, there was subsistence hunting,
2 there was also whalers that were up on the North Slope for
3 instance that were doing hunting. But the thought now when
4 they've gone back and done studies is that that was just a
5 contribution. The bigger thought, the main reason why they
6 thought the muskox disappeared out of Alaska was a series of
7 bad winters. The numbers had gotten so low that then they
8 had a series of four or five bad winters in a row and that
9 did them in.

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: I thought it was the gold
12 miners. According to our legend.

13
14 MS. DEWHURST: Well, probably down in this
15 area. Down in this area, yeah, the muskox that were down
16 here. But the last remnants of the muskox were up north.
17 The last ones that we know of were up on the North Slope.
18 And there was -- we know pretty late in the 1800s they were
19 still there up on the North Slope, and the thought was that
20 the bad winters did them in and not so much the hunting.

21
22 And that kind of goes along with what Fran's saying
23 is that, you know, the subsistence hunting isn't usually a
24 major impact to it. But when you combine all these things,
25 you combine bad winters, animals that don't do that well with
26 hunting, with all these different things going on, that's
27 what can really knock a population down. And what they have
28 found is muskox are real sensitive to the winter condition
29 and if they get a heavy snow year it can be really tough on
30 them and cause -- even without the hunting pressure it can
31 cause problems with calves and that they don't produce the
32 calves, aren't produced or they aren't very healthy.

33
34 So that's why I think we're kind of harping on the
35 biology more than we do on other species is we know the
36 history that muskox are real sensitive to this sort of thing.
37 And more sensitive than things like moose and caribou that
38 seem to be able to rebound and take these bad winters and
39 other things combined. Muskox don't seem to be able to do
40 that, they're not as tough. They -- they're a lot more
41 sensitive to these things and that's why they just about
42 disappeared off the planet a hundred years ago. I mean there
43 was just one little remanent population in Greenland and from
44 there we sprouted all these other new populations around the
45 world. But they just about disappeared off the entire
46 planet, you know, a hundred years ago.

47
48 And that's the history. And we know that they're
49 sensitive to that and we know it could happen again. It
50 doesn't take that much to make it happen again. And there's

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1 some parts of the state they just as soon it happened again,
2 but other parts of the state like here you all seem to really
3 like them. And so in order to keep having them around and
4 have the numbers go up, well, I see a nod of dissention --
5 some folks like them. But if you want more muskox, you know,
6 that's why we're harping on the biology because we know these
7 animals are more sensitive to weather and all these other
8 conditions than other animals. They just don't seem to
9 rebound like moose and caribou and other animals.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Perry.

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: In response to Elmer's thing
14 being -- starting with Elmer, is that Sitnasuak has found
15 that wherever muskox is the blackberry patches go down for,
16 you know, like around Cape Nome, in that area where it's
17 popular for blackberries, we saw that blackberries went down
18 where this muskox. And right now shareholders are
19 questioning the value of muskox around Cape Nome. That's how
20 much of an issue it became though with our campers out there,
21 happy campers.

22
23 And I also read somewhere in our report that five
24 percent is the lowest in the state right, of muskox hunting,
25 this Seward Peninsula?

26 MS. DEWHURST: Well, we're -- I'm trying to
27 think.....

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: Because it was making a
30 comparison of.....

31
32 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, yeah, the.....

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: And if we're the lowest and
35 we were trying to get six or seven last year.

36
37 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, the five percent, we
38 were at three percent for several years. The five percent
39 was -- came out of the Cooperators Group. We were originally
40 talking a little bit higher, not much higher, like I think
41 six percent or something but the Cooperators Group, that was
42 when it was decided to stick with five.

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: And based on the chart we
45 got it shows us quite lower than the five percent.

46
47 MS. DEWHURST: It kind of depends on how fast
48 you want the growth to occur. Like for example, up on the
49 Northwest Arctic north of here in the Kotzebue side, they're
50 talking about having their first hunt next year and they're

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1 going to start at three percent because they just want to
2 start really conservative.

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

5
6 MS. DEWHURST: And that's how we started
7 here. If you want -- it's kind of like the Cooperators and
8 everybody need to decide, do they want the growth of the
9 population, do you want to make them stable, do you want to
10 cap them, do you want to knock them down? And that's how you
11 decide on the percentage of harvest. The five percent was
12 decided that they wanted to harvest a few more so maybe make
13 the growth not quite as fast but take more animals now. So
14 it's kind of trade off on deciding what the harvest rate is.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, that's just based on
17 what I read in the papers.

18
19 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. That's mainly on
20 Nunivak Island down south. The harvest rate's much higher,
21 but they produce like gangbusters down there. They do quite
22 well on Nunivak Island. For whatever reasons, conditions are
23 just ideal there and that's the only place in the state
24 they've had production as high down there. And I really
25 can't explain it but I just know that they just do
26 gangbusters down there and no place else, anywhere in Alaska,
27 do they have as many calves being produced and they just seem
28 to do really well down there, and so it can support a much
29 higher harvest down there.

30
31 Kate probably knows more of the history.

32
33 MS. PERSONS: You have to consider, too, that
34 it's an island and they want to maintain the population at a
35 particular level. And the population, the recruitment is
36 about 15 percent a year and so they harvest at 15 percent.

37
38 MS. DEWHURST: Where at the Cooperators Group
39 they said, well, we want the muskox to be able to expand in
40 Unit 23, for example, up around Buckland and Deering, that's
41 their expansion zone where the population's moving into. And
42 there was discussion at the working group that we don't want
43 to knock the numbers down too much because the animals won't
44 expand into that area because the Buckland and Deering folks
45 told us that they'd like to see more muskox in the area.
46 Well, the only way to get more muskox in the area is to make
47 the numbers creep up a little bit.

48
49 MR. MENDENHALL: So perhaps in the future?

50

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1 MS. DEWHURST: Oh, yeah, it's quite possible
2 in the future that the harvest will -- we'll know next year
3 in the year -- in year 2000 we do the next survey, we'll be
4 in a lot better place to know what the numbers are. And then
5 based on the numbers it's quite possible that we could
6 suggest a higher harvest rate.

7
8 MR. ADKISSON: In fact, Johnson will probably
9 remember this from the Cooperators meeting, there was
10 discussion, and in Shishmaref, especially, I believe was
11 interested in a six percent harvest level and basically it
12 was a compromise that was reached with the understanding
13 that, you know, especially after the next census, you know,
14 that topic would be open to discussion and brought back on
15 the table. So you know, there was also discussion of sliding
16 harvest levels to sort of keep in synch with weather and
17 biological impacts on the animals and things. So you know,
18 right now the goal is through the Cooperators to provide for
19 increased numbers and expansion of range and the five percent
20 level seems consistent with that.

21
22 MR. KATCHEAK: Ted, from Stebbins. Do you
23 know what type of plant they feed on or do you have that
24 study available already?

25
26 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, it varies from the
27 different time of year. They eat a lot of grasses and low --
28 low lying tundra type shrubs. But a pretty part of their
29 diet is grasses actually. They will eat liken, like caribou
30 do but it's a very small part of their diet where caribou
31 that's a big part of their diet is eating the likens.
32 Muskox, it's maybe 10 percent, it's a very small part of
33 their diet.

34
35 So that's where -- they don't compete that much with
36 caribou for food. This time of year, this is where we were
37 talking about the problems, this time of year they're up high
38 in the mountains and they're -- you know, there isn't that
39 much growing up there. Most of you have probably been up on
40 some of these rocky ridges. The tundra plants that can
41 survive on these rocky ridges are usually woody, lowly things
42 kind of creeping among the rocks and that's the type of stuff
43 they're eating right now, these little dwarf willows and
44 things like that that -- there isn't much nutritional value
45 to it, it's just something to put in their bellies. And then
46 as soon as things start greening up here in April or May,
47 they'll really concentrate on the stuff that's greening up,
48 some of the early tundra plants.

49
50 But primarily they're eating tundra plants and a lot

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1 of grasses. They'll go into wet areas in the summer and eat
2 sedges and some of those wetland plants like sourdock,
3 they'll eat a lot of the wetland plants in the summer. So
4 they kind of drop down into the lower reaches in the summer
5 and then in the winter when the snow gets deep they go up
6 high on these little rocky ridges that you wouldn't think
7 anything could survive on. It's pretty amazing when you're
8 -- when we were flying the surveys last year and you're
9 flying along and you pick, to me would be the least likely
10 place an animal would be and there it is on this exposed
11 rocky ridge and here's a group of muskox huddled up there and
12 you're like, gosh, if it was me, I wouldn't be up there, the
13 wind's blasting you, but there's no snow, that's why they're
14 up there. The snow is very shallow so they can get to their
15 food. But the food they're eating is -- the stuff that grows
16 on those rocky ridges, which isn't much, it's -- it's the
17 woody dwarf willows and things like that, the tundra plants
18 that can survive on the bare rocky ridges.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: When Johnson and I were at
21 the muskox meeting in Kotzebue, I was amazed at the number of
22 muskox that have grown in our region, it's like three times
23 as much as the ones that were -- the Northwest Arctic Region,
24 Kotzebue Region.....

25
26 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, your growth rate is much
27 higher than up there, yeah.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It probably went up three
30 times as much, the population size?

31
32 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I don't know if it was
33 that much. Yeah, the whole population size, yeah, the growth
34 rate has been much better, the survival.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And we started, I think,
37 twice as many muskox at three percent where they're proposing
38 to do that in half as much animals. So anyway, I just wanted
39 to make that comment.

40
41 Ida had her hand up.

42
43 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff
44 Committee member and I just wanted to speak on the numbers
45 and the date, the closing date. The Board has discussed this
46 in the past and the Board was especially concerned about not
47 extending beyond that date. The Chairman was especially
48 concerned also about the people being able to hunt and to get
49 their needs but he focused very heavily on the past special
50 actions and they did not want to keep addressing this in

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1 special actions. And that he said, if you have two weeks
2 left, he expects you to seriously hunt those two weeks. And
3 the other thing, when you're looking at the need and the need
4 to incorporate traditional knowledge, as Ken has stated in
5 his earlier presentation, using village quotas would be more
6 akin to traditional no season. But the quota would keep you
7 within a range you can take no more than X amount and when
8 that number was achieved, the season is closed basically.
9 And also the use of designated hunters. If someone were ill
10 or unable to hunt a designated hunter could take for
11 themselves and that other person.

12
13 So I seriously urge you to consider those options of
14 those kinds of changes in your regulations rather than coming
15 back to the Board with another special action because it has
16 been seriously discussed in the past and those were the main
17 concerns of the Board.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Anything
20 further Ken.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: I make a motion for a break.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: A motion has been made for
25 a break.

26
27 MS. DEGNAN: Second.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Second. So 10 minute
30 break.

31
32 (Off record - 10:17 a.m.)

33
34 (On record - 10:33 a.m.)

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I will call the meeting
37 back to order, it's now 10:33 according to my clock. And
38 Donna, have you got anything further?

39
40 MS. DEWHURST: No, that's it for Proposal 46.
41 So we still have to go through State and any public comments
42 before you decide.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Agency comments. Donna.

45
46 MS. DEWHURST: The State may have a couple of
47 comments.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake Olanna has requested
50 to address the Board and so we're going to wait until

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1 Proposal 47 is discussed so he can come up and talk on both
2 proposals.

3

4 MR. EDENSHAW: Madame Chair, I mean if Kate
5 -- or specifically Ken and Kate, if they'd like additional
6 comments regarding the proposal, they'd be welcome to come up
7 here and go on record to support the proposal, reject, defer.

8

9 MS. PERSONS: The State supports making these
10 regulations part of the -- Donna has summed up the situation.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
13 Service. The only observation I'd really make on it is I
14 believe that the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council,
15 at their recent meeting in Kiana voted to support Proposal
16 46, which was to make the existing regulations permanent.
17 And I believe they also didn't take any action on 47 since
18 they saw that basically as a Seward Peninsula issue.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken.

21

22 MR. EDENSHAW: And Madame Chair, there
23 weren't any public comments received by the office.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Proposal 47.

26

27 MS. DEWHURST: Well, we need to vote on
28 Proposal 46.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We're doing.....

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: Wasn't.....

33

34 MS. DEGNAN: Excuse me, point of order.

35

36 MR. MENDENHALL:because Jake also.....

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, I think we better
39 call Jake Olanna to speak on Proposal 46.

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: And then take a vote.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

44

45 MR. OLANNA: Jake Olanna, Subsistence
46 Research Specialist at Kawerak. I just wanted to express the
47 support of Proposal 46 from the Kawerak Board recognizing
48 that there is two hunts now with the State and the Federal
49 hunts and for more equal harvest in both -- Kawerak's Board
50 position has already been that when the Federal Subsistence

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1 Board suppl -- I mean when they approved the hunt with a
2 positive C&T we always felt that the other villages in this
3 region should be afforded the same chance to harvest muskox.
4 So we support 46.

5
6 And I wanted to point out, too, when you guys were
7 talking about the muskox, I'm also the co-chair of the Muskox
8 Cooperators Group. And a little bit more history on how
9 muskox effects my region, the reindeer herders have been the
10 most vocal people in opposition to the further growth of
11 muskox. But the Kawerak Board feels and myself, that the
12 increasing numbers of muskox is a benefit because that's
13 another red meat source within our region. But one thing
14 that was brought up earlier about caribou in conflict. Most
15 of the -- I believe in my region and in this Seward Peninsula
16 region is -- I'll tell you an example of how reindeer herders
17 are opposed to anymore further growth of this population is
18 because mostly in the winter time when the reindeer are out
19 there pawing the ground to get to their feed, what happens is
20 the muskox come around and they drive these reindeer and they
21 go to these crater holes and take over the area that the
22 reindeer are at, that's where the conflict comes in with
23 reindeer herders. And a lot of time the reindeer can be
24 found where the caribou -- or the muskox and the caribou are,
25 that's on top of those mountain ridges mostly on the southern
26 side of these hills and mountains that we have back here. So
27 that's where the conflict comes in.

28
29 But like I said, Kawerak supports Proposal 46
30 because, you know, it's a fair way that we think -- for these
31 regulations to be, not temporary but in permanent status
32 because I was one of the ones that supported an earlier hunt
33 in August and a later closure, and understanding of what the
34 Board had to do and the State's request for recognition.
35 Because you know, like Kate was saying and Donna was saying,
36 that when muskox are carrying, that's the wrong time to be
37 out hunting. And generally the health of the herd is not as
38 good during this time of the year and I've seen them drop
39 muskox, they're found in late March sometimes, too. I
40 observed that from flying with reindeer herders when I used
41 to work for the Reindeer Herders Association.

42
43 And that's all I have on 46.

44
45 But I wanted to thank Kate and Donna for their
46 reports. I do want to mention that I also sit on the
47 Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee where we have
48 requested a proposal and it's in proposal state right now
49 where muskox permits issued -- be issued to one per household
50 because we want to see more expansion in smaller villages

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1 like White Mountain, we had one individual -- one household
2 with two permits. And recognizing that, that's what Kawerak
3 has proposed and Northern Norton Sound Advisory Council has
4 submitted that proposal and it's in their packet this year.

5

6 Is that right?

7

8 MS. PERSONS: That's right.

9

10 MR. OLANNA: That's right. And on 46, I'll
11 you right now, Kawerak supports 46 and I don't think I should
12 have to come back here because I'm tired of muskox. I've
13 been at this issue since it was first formed in the
14 Cooperators Group, but it's an animal that we've learned to
15 like because of the taste when the animal is healthy when
16 they're harvested, it's good tasting meat and people
17 recognize that.

18

19 But I also want to urge you people from the villages,
20 for those people that haven't got their permits hurry up and
21 get those animals because if you guys don't fill up your
22 permits, this is another ammunition for the guide hunt, the
23 guiders, the guide people -- the guide outfitters to come
24 back to you Boards and say, hey, you guys didn't harvest all
25 your muskox. But that's the way I look at it. So I would
26 urge your people to make sure they get their -- go out there
27 and harvest that muskox because I -- the young bulls are
28 generally pretty healthy this time of year. And since we're
29 targeting bulls, leave those big ones alone because they're
30 tough, I found that out. They're tough meat.

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: Make good breeding stock.

33

34 MR. OLANNA: Yes, definitely Perry, just like
35 you. And that's all I have, Madame Chair, thank you.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Are there any questions
38 for Jake? Thank you, Jake.

39

40 MR. MENDENHALL: For purposes of moving
41 along, I make a motion for accepting Proposal 46 because
42 there was no motion made to have discussion on it, to become
43 legal.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: A motion has been made, is
46 there a second?

47

48 MR. BUCK: Second.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any discussion.

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1 MS. DEGNAN: To make the regulation approved,
2 what would the regulation include? Would that include local
3 community involvement in terms of what the harvest would be?
4

5 MR. MENDENHALL: I was just doing a point of
6 order to make a motion for the proposal so that
7 discussion.....
8

9 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

10 MR. MENDENHALL:can be made.

11 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, this is on discussion.

12 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

13 MS. DEGNAN: Just for clarification.

14 MR. MENDENHALL: I didn't know who seconded
15 that, that's what I meant.

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Peter Buck seconded.

17 MR. MENDENHALL: I didn't hear the second.

18 MS. DEGNAN: So if this is approved then
19 would -- I'm just wanting to know would local communities in
20 the effected units have a role in deciding what quota or take
21 would be?
22

23 MS. DEWHURST: If you pass this, if you
24 support this proposal it would be just as written. Any
25 changes to make in the quota, like lets say after we do the
26 next count in the year 2000 and we look at the numbers and
27 say, we'll like up the harvest or whatever, it would be best
28 made through the working group but then a new proposal could
29 be submitted to change.....
30

31 MS. DEGNAN: At the next cycle?

32 MS. DEWHURST:at that time. Yeah.....

33 MS. DEGNAN: The next cycle.

34 MS. DEWHURST:at that cycle to change
35 the harvest.....
36

37 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

38 MS. DEWHURST:after we get the new
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

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1 numbers.

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah. And then the communities
4 would know that it's a system operating the.....

5

6 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah.

7

8 MS. DEGNAN:they'd be able to have
9 input, too?

10

11 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, the working group works
12 through the communities. Yeah, I mean if you want to modify
13 it you can recommend to modify it. If there's some specific
14 point in the proposal you can support it with a modification
15 if there's some point you want to change. That is a
16 possibility.

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL: Can we send past minutes to
19 Fran on the muskox so she could follow along with what the
20 process was on C&T and.....

21

22 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, but the basic point is I
23 would like the communities that are in those units,
24 harvesting units, that they have the ability to pick the
25 quota.

26

27 MR. MENDENHALL: And the Kawerak Cooperative
28 minutes would also reflect what they did last January '98.

29

30 MS. DEGNAN: Because the bottom line being
31 that if the harvest is open then I would like to see the
32 local communities within that harvest unit be afforded the
33 first opportunity to be the harvestees.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The special action making
36 this a permanent regulation came from the individuals that
37 are effected by it. The proposal was made.....

38

39 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, but what.....

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:and their
42 request.....

43

44 MS. DEGNAN:I would like to see is
45 their opportunity to be the first in line for harvest rather
46 than having it open to the rest of the state.

47

48 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

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1 MR. OLANNA: Thank you, Madame Chair. The
2 issue you're talking about Fran is also addressed when we
3 have cooperators meetings because we have a Cooperators
4 Working Group that's representative from all the communities
5 that are -- that have muskox. And the cooperators have
6 always supported a minimum harvest right now of three
7 percent, but if at any time anyone of the cooperators would
8 like an increase in the harvest rate then I think that would
9 be probably decided by the cooperators and then put forth to
10 you and the Board and the State Advisory Councils.

11
12 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

13
14 MR. OLANNA: Okay.

15
16 MS. DEGNAN: Okay, thank you. Thank you,
17 Madame Chair.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any further comments or
20 concerns?

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been called.

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: All in favor.....

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All in favor signify by
29 saying aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All is opposed same sign.

34
35 (No opposing responses)

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: Make a motion for Proposal
40 47 to be reviewed.

41
42 MS. DEGNAN: Second.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Second has been made.

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay, now we can do
47 discussion.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Discussion for Proposal
50 47.

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1 MS. DEWHURST: Proposal 47 has a lot of
2 history. 22(D) has been the one subunit in this muskox
3 harvest that has been the most hotly debated, discussed,
4 reviewed for at least the past three or four or maybe even
5 four or five years. It's been quite a long time and a lot of
6 history of going back and forth over what the harvest should
7 be. A lot of debate between the Federal government and the
8 State government, the local people. It's been a hot issue
9 for a very long time on it.

10
11 The bottom line, the reason it's been a hot issue is
12 there are no easy ways of fixing the problem. There are some
13 problems because of the land ownership and the way it's
14 distributed in 22(D). It makes it tough.

15
16 I think I can talk loud enough without a mic 22(D) is
17 this section right here. BLM land is this smattering of
18 yellow which is over by Brevig and Teller. And then Park
19 Service land is over on the far east side of the unit. And
20 then everything else in the unit, the white stuff is State
21 land or State controlled lands, private which includes Native
22 corporations, private ownership and State owned lands and
23 selected lands. So under the Federal program, we're only
24 talking about the yellow stuff which is the BLM lands around
25 Brevig and Teller and the purplish stuff which is the
26 National Park Service lands on the far eastern side of the
27 unit. And this is where the problem has occurred, because we
28 don't have that much Federal land in this unit and the
29 Federal land is kind of divided, it's distributed kind of
30 differently. And it's been -- it's been a tough issue and
31 it's probably not going to get any easier.

32
33 Like I said there's no easy solution in 22(D) or we
34 would have found it years ago. So that's why this has come
35 around again and we're going to be discussing it again.

36
37 If you go to your two tables, if you look at the
38 history of the harvest in 22(D) which is Table 3 in that
39 handout, the bottom table, the 22(D) portion is darkened,
40 it's shaded so you can kind of pick it out. We've had the
41 hunt since 1995, the Federal hunt's been going on since 1995.
42 You can see the amount of animals that have been allowed to
43 be taken out of 22(D) is varied, it was as low as two in the
44 beginning of the hunt and then it bopped up to eight and then
45 it was knocked down to six, it's gone up and down and that
46 was a source for a lot of debate. The Federal system was
47 accused of over harvesting on Federal lands by the State
48 through their RFR process for several years. After we looked
49 at the harvest, the thing that we noticed pretty quickly is
50 if you go clear to the right part of that table under 22(D),

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1 the harvest is occurring solely on BLM lands, and that's
2 where we got -- we really got pinned to the wall by the
3 State, saying, well, you can't be taking all those animals
4 off of those little pieces of yellow land, it's too much of a
5 harvest. And as a compromise, I think it was two years ago,
6 the Federal Board made a split or they approved a split where
7 they said, okay, well, we could still allow the same number
8 of permits, they didn't want to adjust the number of permits
9 again, so they said, we'll keep the same number of permits,
10 keep the opportunity as high as possible on the Federal side
11 but we're going to say half of those permits have to be taken
12 off of Park Service land, which is that purple land way off
13 to the right to try to ease the hunting pressure on the
14 yellow land or orange I guess as it is on your maps, the BLM
15 lands.

16
17 And this received a lot of discussion. There was
18 concern that, well, gee, people from Brevig and Teller have
19 to go way over to the purple land which is a good stretch on
20 a snowmachine to hunt muskox and there aren't that many
21 muskox over there in all honesty. It isn't a real big muskox
22 area. There are more muskox on the yellow land. But the
23 concern was the over harvest. And to give further credence
24 to that, if you go Under Tab S, Page 11 of the analysis, if
25 you can have that page open there's a Table 1. What's kind
26 of interesting is muskox -- we do the surveys every two
27 years, the overall muskox population in 22(D) has
28 skyrocketed. It's probably been one of the areas of the
29 biggest growth. Looking on the table it's up to 714 animals
30 but out of those 714 animals only 72 were found on Federal
31 land. What's interesting is, yeah, the overall population in
32 that whole area has gone up tremendously but when we look at
33 how the animals, the groups, and keep in mind, muskox groups
34 move but they don't move a whole lot so they tend to have a
35 favorite area they hang out in and the animals that were
36 hanging out on Federal lands, the growth hasn't been as good,
37 the population hasn't grown to the same level as they have in
38 the rest of the unit.

39
40 And we don't have positive evidence but the evidence
41 is kind of circumstantial, that harvest might have played a
42 factor in that. The only animals that were being allowed to
43 harvest were off those BLM lands. Well, maybe that harvest
44 was effecting those numbers and that's why the numbers didn't
45 grow as high as the rest of the area. So there is some
46 concern on the Federal side about taking all those animals
47 off the BLM land. We do have circumstantial evidence that it
48 may already have an impact there. Between 1996 and 1998, the
49 growth rate was much lower on Federal land than it was on the
50 surrounding lands. Well, maybe the harvest did have an

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1 impact. It's purely circumstantial but you have to look at
2 it and say, umm, well, that's pretty good evidence.

3
4 So there is a lot of concern about removing the
5 split. You know, basically the proposal is to remove that
6 split that forces half the permits to be taken off of Park
7 Service land. If we remove the split we know what will
8 happen, all the animals will be taken off of BLM land. You
9 know, why drive your snowmachine way the heck over there to
10 get one if you can get one closer. It's just human nature.
11 So if we remove the split there is a big concern on the
12 Federal side that there would be an over harvest occurring on
13 BLM lands.

14
15 The other suggestion that has been made in the past
16 but there's been a lot of reluctance to go with it would be
17 to possibly kick some permits on to the State side in 22(D)
18 and put more permits into the State program. But there's
19 been concern there, too, that there's -- the State program is
20 very new and people are reluctant -- human nature, we're all
21 reluctant to change and everybody wants to give the State
22 program a little bit of time to see how it's going to work
23 and how it's going to pan out, so people were reluctant to
24 dive whole hog into the State program until we see how --
25 until villages saw how it's going to work. So when this was
26 brought up last year, there was a lot of reluctance to
27 putting more permits into the State program. Most people
28 wanted to keep them in the Federal side.

29
30 So now we're back to our problem of allocation on the
31 permits. And we know on a biological viewpoint we can't take
32 the whole quota off of BLM lands, but it does pose more of a
33 hardship for folks from Brevig and Teller to go clear over
34 into Park Service lands.

35
36 Now, whether or not we're meeting the subsistence
37 needs of Brevig and Teller, one thing, if you look in the
38 past in 22(D), the number of permits issued has never been
39 maxed out, i.e., the number -- the harvest has never met the
40 number of permits issued in 22(D), so we've always provided
41 more opportunity to-date than what has been used. The
42 opportunity has always been there and we've never maxed it
43 out in the Federal program in 22(D). So the question comes,
44 if we kept this system status quo, would there still be ample
45 opportunity for the people of Brevig and Teller to get the
46 amount of muskoxen they're going to want and have the ability
47 to get and still provide a biological comfort zone for those
48 muskoxen in BLM lands to keep growing? Because that's the
49 other down side, is if we over harvest on those BLM lands
50 then those numbers are going to go down and then it's going

00042

1 to be -- the issue is going to go away at some point, in
2 that, people and Brevig and Teller are going to have to go
3 further to get their muskox because there won't be as many
4 locally. And I'm not sure that Brevig and Teller folks want
5 that. I think they'd like to keep the muskox around nearby.

6
7
8 So it's a tough issue, and it's understandably a
9 tough issue because it's been on the books for several years
10 and like I said, if there was a simple solution we would have
11 probably thought of it and come up with it a few years ago.
12 But because the issue is so complex, nobody has come up with
13 a simple, easy fix and so we're at it again.

14
15 MR. BUCK: With your Unit 22(D) totals,
16 you've got 1992 340; 1994 405; 1996 308; 1998 714, where are
17 they going? It looks like they're going somewhere, are they
18 coming back?

19
20 MS. DEWHURST: I'm sorry, what table are you
21 on?

22
23 MR. BUCK: The table on Page 11.

24
25 MS. DEWHURST: Okay.

26
27 MR. BUCK: And you got 340, 405, 308,
28 714.....

29
30 MS. DEWHURST: Okay, looking at the total
31 for.....

32
33 MR. BUCK:so that.....

34
35 MS. DEWHURST:the Seward Peninsula
36 there, that column.

37
38 MR. BUCK: So is that the total for Seward
39 Peninsula?

40
41 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, the white column there
42 is the total for the Seward Peninsula. But what I'm pointing
43 out is that's the growth that we've seen over the whole
44 Seward Peninsula. But then if you go one column over, to
45 that shaded column, it's showing the same growth, rate of
46 growth on the Federal lands. And you see the numbers have
47 gone up and down but they haven't gone up very much, if
48 anything, they went down a little bit from 1994. So it's
49 showing that either the Federal land isn't a preferred area
50 and the animals aren't using it as much. That could be a

00043

1 combination of -- that's probably part of it is that the BLM
2 land isn't maybe their favorite spots and the fact that the
3 harvest was occurring right there. And that might have been
4 part what moved some of them off, would be disturbance. We
5 don't know.

6
7 I mean there's a lot of unknowns there. But what we
8 do know is when you look at the numbers off the BLM land and
9 the Park Service land, the numbers aren't going up. They're
10 either stable or very slight increase and something's causing
11 this, we don't know what. So we're very reluctant to
12 increase the harvest there because we know that there's a
13 problem there with those animals.

14
15 Under the State system you can hunt anywhere in the
16 unit. And under the Federal system right now, the permits
17 are split. So in the case right now half the permits are
18 issued for the Park and half the permits are issued for BLM.
19 And that's the status quo right now.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: Grace

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Perry.

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: I noticed on the chart here
26 the 24 permits for 22(D) for '99 and there's also 12 permits
27 for the Federal, BLM and National Park Service. So I'm kind
28 of seeing that there's quite a few. There's a total of 36
29 permits available for 22(D) already. And I'm just trying to
30 figure out why, yet only four permits were there but they
31 want to just only do BLM hunt and why not the State -- was
32 there any permits issued from the State for Brevig and
33 Teller, 22(D)?

34
35 MS. PERSONS: There are six State permits in
36 Teller and four State permits in Brevig and those people can
37 fill their permits anywhere on State or Federal land,
38 anywhere in 22(D).

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

41
42 MS. DEWHURST: Kate, you might want to
43 explain how that occurred and the fact that there would have
44 been more or there could -- there was a potential for more of
45 those permits to go to Brevig and Teller.

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL: That's what I'm -- I'm just
48 referring to the chart, you know, how it reflects.

49
50 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. Everybody from Brevig

00044

1 and Teller who mailed in an application last May got permits.
2 And if more people had mailed in applications there would
3 have been more individuals from those communities with
4 permits.

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: Maybe BLM tastes better than
7 State muskox.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I also noticed of these
10 four permits that are issued to Brevig, none were filled to-
11 date?

12
13 MS. PERSONS: Not yet but.....

14
15 MR. SEETOT: We had four permits that were
16 applied for. There was one person that was living there -- I
17 mean just staying there for -- now he moved to Shishmaref,
18 what do we do in that situation?

19
20 MS. PERSONS: Well, he is still the holder of
21 that permit and he can only use that permit to hunt in 22(D).

22
23
24 MR. SEETOT: Because the three, I think we'll
25 get them before the deadline.

26
27 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

28
29 MR. SEETOT: Grace.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

32
33 MR. SEETOT: Another question, too, for
34 Donna. It's a known fact I traveled from Brevig to pretty
35 much where the NPS land is from Brevig to Kuzitrin or that
36 road system there it's pretty much up to the Kuzitrin bridge
37 is 56 to 57 snowmachine miles depending on which road you
38 take, you just one mile difference that just might be there.
39 From the bridge to, I think what is called Ella Creek or
40 Pargon goes up and then Ella meets it that's pretty much
41 where the boundary starts. The northern portion of the NPS
42 land is pretty much the start of the lava bed.

43
44 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

45
46 MR. SEETOT: When or whoever does the survey
47 the next time should document how much of NPS land is, you
48 know, places where you can travel by snowmachine or which is
49 uninhabitable by muskoxen.

50

00045

1 One of the factors that you might point out in the
2 decline what would be that maybe the predators, the top
3 predators, the wolves especially are driving the muskox away
4 from National Park Service land or from the Bering Land
5 Bridge land. One, the caribou are starting to come within
6 the bound -- within the mountains, within the lava beds and
7 the predators -- the top predator is the wolf, it will follow
8 where the feed is. And I think that the wolf will try to
9 take down any game that they deem is necessary or fit to eat,
10 muskoxen will kind of form a defensive circle but I guess
11 like you say, the top predator would be humans, of course,
12 you know, they have the brains to go around regulations, you
13 know, they don't need to follow regulations, they don't need
14 to fill out their permit cards to be in compliance, you know,
15 we have ways to go around the system.

16
17 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

18
19 MR. SEETOT: The other thing is that there
20 are -- a majority of the people, you know, go with the
21 regulations that have been published by State and Federal
22 agencies. The Native people have been regulated by weather.

23
24 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

25
26 MR. SEETOT: Weather has been a major factor
27 by in season or you don't get them during the rutting season
28 or while they're breeding. You rely on information that has
29 been passed down by ancestors to elders and on down the line.
30 But most of that information is not being carried on, one,
31 you know, by the young people, you know, because modern
32 technology is replacing pretty much everything. You can go
33 to this area and back, you know, within a day.

34
35 We have been talking about National Park or -- the
36 Bering Land Bridge land that we should hunt there but has
37 there been any documentation of how much is lava, rock area,
38 you know, that cannot be.....

39
40 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. SEETOT:traversed except by the
43 animals that know the system? Because there have been
44 warnings that there are deep crevices, you know, places
45 within the lava bed that has been taught -- or has been
46 passed from generation to generation to stay away from. And
47 we just see this purple glob as Bering Land Bridge, how much
48 of this is -- can't we go by?

49
50 MS. DEWHURST: I think I can answer some of

00046

1 that. Luckily on the 1998 survey when we counted the
2 animals, I counted -- I was the one that was in the airplane
3 counting that portion of Bering Land Bridge.....

4
5 MR. SEETOT: Uh-huh.

6
7 MS. DEWHURST:so I can tell you from
8 memory where the animals were and roughly how many were there
9 and what the distribution. What Elmer is talking about, on
10 your map, that purple area, the eastern portion of it, the
11 portion to your right on the map is mostly lava beds. Like
12 Elmer said it is rugged country, it's real rugged country.
13 You can even see that from the air. I mean I certainly
14 wouldn't want to even attempt to land there with an airplane,
15 it's incredibly rugged. We didn't see any muskox in the lava
16 beds, none. We flew them very closely and very extensively
17 because the lava beds are relatively flat compared to the
18 mountains, we were able to fly real tight lines, you know,
19 you fly up here and turn around and come right back and do
20 these really tight lines. And we know for a fact there were
21 no animals in the lava beds. There were tons of caribou in
22 the lava beds, geez, there were thousands of caribou in the
23 lava beds, that didn't seem to phase them at all. It kind of
24 surprised me that it was really rugged country and caribou
25 were just flopping along right in the lava beds. They seemed
26 to like it. We didn't see any wolves but that doesn't
27 surprise me, wolves run from airplanes so they usually can
28 hear you coming a long ways off but we did see a lot of
29 caribou.

30
31 Where the muskox were when we counted were, I don't
32 know all the terms for the local features but there's the --
33 there's a ridge of mountains that comes up from Council that
34 kind of follows a river there.

35
36 MR. SEETOT: (Indiscernible).

37
38 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, it's before you get to
39 the lava beds.

40
41 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

42
43 MS. DEWHURST: There's like a ridge of fairly
44 low mountains there. And the muskox were in those. They
45 were up on rocky ridges, along the Bendelebens. There were a
46 couple of groups of muskox that were in the flats before you
47 get into the lava beds, kind of near the rivers and towards
48 the road. The road wasn't that far away but they were within
49 the Park but they were within the flats before you get into
50 the lava. But like I say, we didn't see any muskox in the

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1 pure lava beds itself. There was a little dome -- a little
2 lava dome there that one particular group just loved. It was
3 kind of interesting to me, I think there was over 20 animals
4 there. Some of them were up on top, some of them were down
5 around the bottom but they seemed to like this one little
6 knob, it was like their.....

7

8 MS. DEGNAN: Was it like this?

9

10 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. It was a perfect little
11 knob and the muskox just were using that as shelter.

12

13 MR. MENDENHALL: A pingo.

14

15 MS. DEWHURST: Well, it was bigger than a
16 pingo it was a big.....

17

18 MS. DEGNAN: It's huge.

19

20 MS. DEWHURST:thing. Yeah, it's a big
21 knob. But, you know, those were the type areas, we didn't
22 see any muskox in the lava beds at all and we surveyed them
23 really, really tightly. Like I said, caribou loved it. It
24 was like I was amazed at how many caribou were in there. So
25 you're right.

26

27 And the bottom line is I wouldn't bother to even try
28 to take a snowmachine back there because the muskox don't
29 seem to use it. So they were there -- so the muskox were
30 actually -- if you were coming from Brevig and Teller they
31 would be before you get to the lava beds where the muskox
32 were hanging out.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Can you kind of point that
35 out on a larger map because I'm having a constant problem.

36

37 MS. DEWHURST: Unfortunately this map doesn't
38 have a road on it, I wish it did that would help a little bit
39 if it had the road on it and it doesn't have topographic
40 features, but the Kuzitrin kind of comes down in here, the
41 lava beds are kind of like right here, kind of. This is
42 Noxapaga, this is the Kuzitrin. There's an old mining camp
43 up in there, not that far off the road, I don't know the name
44 of it but I remember seeing it from the air. And there's an
45 area flat, between the road and when the lava beds start and
46 that's the area where we saw some muskox, and around the knob
47 and out in the flats, and then the other place we saw
48 muskoxen was the edge of the Bendelebens. Kind of right on
49 the fringe of them in kind of the foothills, they were up on
50 a couple of knobs in the foothills. But that was the only

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1 places in that whole portion of 22(D) that we saw any.

2

3 And I felt real confident, like I say, I was in the
4 airplane and we flew really tight lines through the lava beds
5 and we didn't see any. That didn't really surprise me, and
6 like you said, Elmer, that country is really rugged country
7 but caribou like it. They were there. They seemed to be
8 moving through, I don't think the caribou were going to stay.
9 From the looks of it I think the caribou were traveling
10 through the area is my guess. But there were a lot there
11 when we happened to be there in March. And that survey was
12 -- I'm trying to remember, that was in what, the beginning,
13 first or second week of March, last -- middle of March.

14

15 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

16

17 MS. DEWHURST: That's when we did it last
18 year. Oh, yeah that would help. There's the road.

19

20 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

21

22 MS. DEWHURST: I think what it was, down --
23 one group -- I think one or two groups were down here, like I
24 said, right on the edge of Bendelebens, right here in the
25 foothills kind of area or what I call the foothills. Then we
26 had -- I don't see that knob, I was hoping it would show up.
27 But there's a big knob up here in the flats someplace that --
28 it's real flat and then there's this real distinct knob. But
29 there was a big group there and then there was -- then there
30 were a couple little small groups in the flats but this
31 really rough terrain, as Elmer's referring to.....

32

33 MR. MENDENHALL: Here's the.....

34

35 MS. DEWHURST: No, it wasn't that far. They
36 were all -- all the muskox were on this end. I mean every
37 muskox we saw in that region was on this end of the unit. We
38 didn't see anything over toward Imuruk Lake and that area,
39 there were no muskox there. Caribou but not muskox.

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: There's the road.

42

43 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah.

44

45 MR. MENDENHALL: There's Black Dome.

46

47 MS. DEWHURST: And we didn't survey over
48 there we were just surveying the Federal portion so we didn't
49 go clear over to the road, somebody else was counting over
50 there.

00049

1 MR. MENDENHALL: There's Coffee Dome right
2 here.

3
4 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, that wasn't it, though.
5 It was on.....

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm showing them where
8 Coffee Dome was.

9
10 MS. DEGNAN: For reference.

11
12 MS. DEWHURST: So they were all over -- all
13 of them were scattered over in the flats and then down in
14 here. Nothing in the lava. So I mean I'd pass that word on
15 that it isn't even worth risking your life trying to go in
16 the lava beds to look for muskox. You know, you should run
17 into them before you get there -- before you get to the lava
18 beds.

19
20 MR. EDENSHAW: How many were there?

21
22 MS. DEWHURST: Oh, I don't have those numbers
23 in front of me.

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: You said 20.

26
27 MS. DEWHURST: My memory serves - well, there
28 was one group that had around 20. There was some smaller
29 groups. I'm guessing probably 30 to 40 animals, but that's
30 just my memory and as I get older my memory isn't as good as
31 it used to be but that's what I seem to remember off the top
32 of my head. Somewhere between 30 to 40 animals on the Park
33 Service land in 22(D). You know, that's what we saw at that
34 time and that was in March when we flew. Snow conditions
35 were, I guess about the same.

36
37 MS. PERSONS: They were pretty good.

38
39 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, they were pretty.....

40
41 MS. PERSONS: Way -- way less last year.

42
43 MS. DEWHURST: Way less last year, okay.

44
45 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

46
47 MS. DEWHURST: So if anything the animals
48 might be a little bit higher.....

49
50 MS. PERSONS: Higher.

00050

1 MS. DEWHURST:this year than last year.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So there are less animals
4 on that region than there are in the BLM lands then?

5

6 MS. DEWHURST: Oh, yeah, I mean.....

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Twice as.....

9

10 MS. DEWHURST:that's the given, that
11 there are probably less animals there.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do you have some sort of
14 table as to -- well, there's been no hunts over there
15 since.....

16

17 MS. DEWHURST: I don't believe any animals on
18 the Federal hunt have been taken from Park Service land even
19 though we had the split last year, nobody took any off of
20 Park Service land. So as far as I know those animals are
21 unhunted.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: On 22(C), I mean 22(D) --
24 where are we 22(C)?

25

26 MS. DEWHURST: 22(D).

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: 22(D).

29

30 MS. DEWHURST: As far as I know none have
31 been taken off of the Park Service land. Those animals are
32 virtually unhunted at this point.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

35

36 MR. SEETOT: Going back to my comment, I
37 think Brevig would have to travel a minimum of 100 miles just
38 to reach the Bering Land Bridge. And I guess an
39 opportunistic hunter would go, you know, to that length to
40 get muskox, you know, while maybe their preferred game is
41 caribou or you know, other type of big game. What -- then
42 the Federal hunt, I guess, the -- there was some hunters that
43 had permits that were going to bring some students to the
44 area where we were going to bag - or harvest our muskox. Can
45 there be -- for reasons in the Federal regulations or State
46 regulations for educational taking of muskox, you know, to
47 show our young people to demonstrate between different sexes
48 and to learn how to harvest these animals.

49

50 MS. DEWHURST: Well.....

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1 MR. SEETOT: Because I guess the only way
2 that they learn the practice is just by seeing and doing it,
3 you know, on-hands.

4
5 MS. DEWHURST: There's a couple of different
6 ways to address it. As Ken mentioned, there's a possibility
7 under the Federal system of going to a community quota versus
8 issuing permits to individuals. It is possible that we can
9 set a community quota where the -- you know, however many,
10 six that's in the Federal system for Brevig and Teller would
11 be for the community so it doesn't designate a hunter and it
12 doesn't tell you where to go. That's a possibility.

13
14 In other areas we've had special requests for
15 ceremonial animals. I imagine that the special request could
16 be made for educational but we'd still be looking at the
17 total quota. So if you took an animal for educational
18 purposes, it would come out of the overall total.

19
20 The other possibility that works in some areas are
21 the designated hunter where that wouldn't be so much for
22 education but if somebody isn't able to hunt for whatever
23 reason they can -- we can -- in some areas we have designated
24 hunter provisions where somebody else can hunt for them. And
25 the nice thing about these sort of systems, Ken mentioned
26 earlier, in that, we have them in place in other types of
27 hunts in other areas is it doesn't help you so much for the
28 snow conditions but when you do have sickness in a community,
29 if you have a designated hunter provision or community quota
30 or something like that, that way if the person that normally
31 would have the permit in hand is sick, then they can get
32 somebody else to hunt for them or if that family's sick they
33 could get somebody else to hunt for them or maybe if it's a
34 community quota it isn't designated to one person so it's
35 just whoever is healthy and wants to go out hunting they can
36 go get the animals. So that -- it doesn't help you much with
37 bad snow years but it does help with the sickness issue that
38 occurred this year.

39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It would also deal with
41 the problem you're talking about when you have somebody who
42 moves then that permit goes with them. If you had a
43 community harvest limit you wouldn't have that problem of
44 dealing with it when somebody might move. And community
45 harvest limits are also more consistent with the way people
46 practiced hunting indigenously.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I was going to add to
49 Elmer's comment about education. It's actually our
50 traditionally way of -- it's our culture to teach our

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1 children by example. And I got kind of concerned when you
2 used the word educational, it's a cultural educational --
3 it's a cultural way of passing our knowledge is what he's
4 talking about. It's that you take your youth and show them
5 how to do things, so I just wanted to clarify that.

6
7 MS. DEWHURST: I mean that's common, not just
8 here, but really all over the world, where hunting and
9 harvest occurs, to teach the youth how to do it and then take
10 them along. And if they're not actually the one that shoots
11 the animal, that they're not the hunter per se, they don't
12 necessarily have to have a hunting license. If they're just
13 going along to watch and they're not carrying the gun, they
14 don't have to have a hunting license to be present. And the
15 only time you have to have a hunting license is if they're
16 actually carrying the gun and doing the shooting. But just,
17 you know, if somebody wants to go along for a hunt just to
18 watch and see how it happens, they don't have to go through
19 the hassle of having a hunting license.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: But on the State side what
22 do they have to do; all persons have to have a hunting
23 license or what?

24
25 MS. PERSONS: Only if you're the one shooting
26 the animal.

27
28 MS. DEWHURST: And it's the same because we
29 don't issue licenses, our licensing goes through the State.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

32
33 MR. SEETOT: One of the things I was trying
34 to clarify is that sourdock grow thicker, I was kind of
35 referring to when you harvest them, you know, you promote
36 their growth. When they first come around, maybe -- maybe
37 the humans, you know, pick out the weak ones or the unhealthy
38 plants, much like the caribou harvest or get unhealthy
39 animals or wounded animals from a herd to make it more
40 healthier, we as humans do not go and say, okay, I want
41 sourdock to grow in this region, I'll take some of the stems
42 and plant them. They have their own environment and they're
43 pretty much regulated pretty much maybe by the start of the
44 season, one, is it too cold for them to blossom? If a flower
45 does blossom, are there going to be any winds to blow out the
46 flowers, and stuff like that? The plants are regulated by
47 nature itself.

48
49 Blackberry plants or the roots -- or the, you know,
50 for the blackberries to grow on in clusters, I think muskox

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1 play major factors that they destroy the plants themselves,
2 and also with salmon berries, you know, they're -- you know,
3 their sharp tooth or you know, they do a lot of stomping.
4 Our tundra is pretty much permafrost, well once you then --
5 permafrost -- it's gone. And then I think they help -- then
6 the ecosystem in some ways and they harm it in other ways.
7 It might be helpful that they eat the sourdock plant, plant
8 -- if they have the seeds, they'll drop them with their
9 droppings in other places where they might not be found. But
10 in other areas -- with their sharp hooves or just because of
11 the hot, hot season or driven by mosquitos or something.
12 They go to a -- bears even -- placed -- favored by locals and
13 then I guess that's where you would see many of the
14 complaints that they damage the plants, the bear plants
15 themselves. And then, you know, that's where -- I think it
16 helps the environment and in other ways it harms the
17 ecosystem in other ways, damaging or helping, you know, other
18 species of plants -- or other plants.

19
20 MS. DEWHURST: I suspect with crowberries or
21 blackberries is they're locally called -- those plants have
22 really long roots that go out, way out under the tundra.
23 Because tundra soil isn't very thick, it tends to be very
24 shallow layer before you hit rock or other stuff. The roots
25 tend to be very, very long and what tends to happen when you
26 stomp on them you kill the upper plant but the roots are
27 still there and they spring little ones. And what I suspect
28 is probably happening is when the muskox or caribou or any
29 animal would step on the plant, you have to have a mature
30 plant to make berries and it might hurt the mature plant, but
31 then down the road if you cut the root, wherever the root's
32 cut, it sets up a new little plant. So what often happens on
33 those tundra plants is if you cut the root or destroy an
34 area, you might lose that mature plant that has berries that
35 year but then you go back five years from now and you
36 suddenly have five plants there. So it's kind of -- you lose
37 the crop for that year but then it comes in thicker down the
38 road.

39
40 Another big factor with blackberries and it's pretty
41 well known is they're very, very dependent on the moisture
42 like you were talking about, the amount of rain and that --
43 that's the berry cross on blackberries, they're very
44 dependent on that. And you see some pretty major variations
45 from year to year with the berry crop due to the amount of
46 moisture, tundra -- they call tundra the tundra dessert in
47 biological terms and that's because it gets a very low amount
48 of rainfall relative to other areas. And so the tundra
49 plants tend to be very sensitive to the amount of rainfall.
50 Especially in the spring when they're setting berries. And

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1 that's why some years we have great blueberry crops and
2 blackberry crops and other years we don't. And a lot of
3 that's due to the amount of rainfall in the spring.

4
5 MR. MENDENHALL: We already determined in the
6 lava bed there's nothing there for -- they're not there. The
7 National Park.....

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Since I've been on the
10 Council for three years, the issue of muskoxen, the impact on
11 the land and other creatures has -- we brought it back every
12 year, two meetings a year we bring the issues back and I'm
13 glad to see there's a study going on with the caribou, but
14 our main concern that's being presented is the impact of
15 muskoxen and land and impact of muskoxen and moose. I do
16 hope that now that the State has a Tier II hunt and that the
17 Fed and the State will combine funds and do a study on an
18 issue that this Council and people have been bringing up for
19 years; the impact on the land and edible plants and some sort
20 of study on the impact of muskoxen and moose. I hope it'd be
21 something that the State -- both the State and the Federal
22 government will take, within the next five years, will take
23 monies together and do a study of. Because it's been an
24 issue of that Elmer has been talking about since I've been on
25 board and it's been an issue that other Council members have
26 been bringing up year in and year out. But I am glad to see
27 that there is a study that's being done with the caribou.
28 Caribou is kind of relatively new to coming here, too.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: We are -- so by our vote
31 then we would be saying that this would take place?

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And going back to the.....

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: Is that what it means?

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No, the proposal.....

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: The proposal is.....

40
41 MS. DEWHURST: The proposal is to remove the
42 split. Currently there is a split in the permits and half
43 the Federal permits have to be.....

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: With our vote now we would
46 combine them?

47
48 MS. DEWHURST: Well, if you voted.....

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Then they'll be.....

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1 MS. DEWHURST:to support the proposal
2 would be to combine. The Federal recommendation is -- the
3 preliminary recommendation from the Federal Staff is to defer
4 a decision based on the fact that we'd really like to see the
5 season proceed to the end and see how it goes. Go out and
6 talk to the communities some more. See if there's been any
7 renewed faith in the State system that there might be
8 interest in the future to possibly put more permits on the
9 State side or see if they just want to keep status quo.

10
11 But basically the Federal recommendation at this time
12 is let's just keep everything in place for another year or
13 through this cycle and give the whole process -- the whole
14 process is new, this is a new hunt, and give this hunt some
15 time to mature and see how it works and then make a decision.
16 So that's the Federal recommendation at this time, is to
17 defer.

18
19 MS. DEGNAN: Well, would the recommendation
20 -- or I mean the proposal to have it anywhere on public
21 lands, I don't see any problem with adopting the proposed
22 resolution so that we can get this cycle -- otherwise if we
23 defer it it will mean another year down the road.....

24
25 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

26
27 MS. DEGNAN:another year down the road.
28 So since it's just taking away the split between the two,
29 there may be the -- the local communities may decide that,
30 well, we'll send our hunters up to that where there is known
31 muskoxen on the National Park Service land because we want to
32 conserve and grow the ones that are on the other BLM lands --
33 so because of the knowledge knowing where the animals are.
34 Because it's to the local people's benefit that the
35 population stays viable.

36
37 So when you take away the barriers and allow, you
38 know, that local determination in working with local
39 communities through the muskox cooperative thing, I don't see
40 any problem. That's coming from my opinion.

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: I'd like to hear more from
43 Elmer one of the stakeholder village on deferring or going
44 for this proposal.

45
46 MR. SEETOT: I could give some comment about
47 one of -- I think Mr. Adkisson that we should defer it. One,
48 is that if we put it out to the State and if the local
49 communities fail to mail in their applications then more of
50 the permits would be going within the region. Last year it

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1 was a windfall for people filing outside of 22(D) by the
2 failure of the communities to mail in their applications.

3
4 I have talked with Kate, I said I would do everything
5 within my system to get these people to sign up for their
6 Tier II hunt and to make sure that they mailed them in this
7 time so that the local people would have more opportunity and
8 probably more likely be getting the permits for their
9 communities. I saw a number of local people get
10 applications, you know, it -- from what they were doing now,
11 you know, within Brevig and Teller will get all the permits.
12 However, they filled them out, they forgot to mail them or,
13 you know, they just -- they didn't mail them in and then that
14 gave the people within the Seward Peninsula the opportunity
15 to be included in the drawing. If the permits for the BLM
16 National -- or the Bering Land Bridge lands is taken out then
17 it would be going out pretty much, I think to the State and I
18 guess there was some caution there that the communities
19 should have the opportunity and like Donna was saying, this
20 is a -- pretty much a new hunt for this region.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: So you would like to defer
23 it.....

24
25 MR. SEETOT: I would like to defer it even
26 though I have comments on the community of Brevig that, you
27 know, we kind of deferred.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: And then the year 2000 would
30 be a new start?

31
32 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: After they do their survey?

35
36 MR. ENINGOWUK: Grace, I have a comment
37 regarding this split. I don't believe it's going to do a
38 major change on the growth of the population of muskox mainly
39 because it's only a bulls hunt and the bulls that are -- the
40 people are hunting are the ones that are not -- the oldest
41 ones, neither are they getting the youngest ones. They're
42 getting bulls that are in their mid-20s or so, or
43 whatever.....

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: They're not looking for 80
46 year olds.....

47
48 MR. ENINGOWUK:80 year old like we do,
49 the population of the muskox has been steadily growing
50 because we're doing our harvest in that manner. And the

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1 growth of the muskox will keep on going because we're only
2 taking a certain -- we're taking only bulls that are mid-
3 range. And probably the ones that have the more say so is
4 the elder ones and the female. They're producing the growth
5 of the muskox. I don't believe there's going to be a major
6 change in the growth of the muskox mainly because of the way
7 we do our hunts.

8
9 So whether it's on whoever's property the growth will
10 always -- always go up. We've seen that for how many years?

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Before you go I have a
13 question for you.

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: And then Ken had his hand
16 up, too, just to let you know.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Can I go with Kate
19 first. Before you go I have a question for you. Now, Teller
20 was issued six permits and three were filled, were any of
21 those in the roadway system because Teller has.....

22
23 MS. PERSONS: No, they were all from a boat
24 in August.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. That was my
27 question. You can go on.

28
29 MS. PERSONS: I think that's a really good
30 point that you make, Johnson. Certainly the concern would be
31 greater if there was a cow harvest. And I don't think that
32 harvesting these bulls is going to effect the overall
33 population but I think it could just by the hunting
34 harassment on the Federal lands where -- where the people
35 with the Federal permits have to hunt on the -- on that
36 particular -- on BLM lands or on Park Service lands and by
37 repeatedly harassing the groups of animals on those lands, it
38 could drive them away on to other hands. We don't know this,
39 we really -- we don't know this.

40
41 But in light of the fact that those permits only can
42 be taken on those lands, it seems like it's really important
43 to ensure that those populations on the Federal lands remain
44 viable. And it just seems a little bit risky to think of
45 taking possibly up to 12 animals off BLM lands when there are
46 only 40 some animals there and you could only harvest bulls.
47 And to get, you know, a good meal it needs to be a young
48 bull.

49
50 MR. MENDENHALL: Maybe there'll be

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1 interbreeding between State and BLM.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
4 Service. I'd just like to say a couple comments along the
5 general issue. First with respect to Johnson's comment and
6 the age structure of the harvest. I think you've heard Jake
7 and some other people mention, you know, get a younger one,
8 the old one's taste a lot tougher. You know, we really don't
9 have a picture of the age structure of the harvest is and we
10 wish we had that. That's one of the reasons that on both the
11 State and Federal sides we're asking people to send in a
12 section of the lower jaw so we can try to get a more accurate
13 picture of exactly what the age structure of the harvest is.

14

15 The other thing that I'd like to say in relation to
16 the population in 22(D), there's two things I'd like to
17 stress there. Donna mentioned to you that while the overall
18 population within the subunit seems to be going up, the
19 number of animals that are observed on the Federal lands
20 doesn't seem to be increasing proportionately. I think we
21 should take that as a cautionary note and nothing more. But
22 with that, at one of our public meetings, there was a
23 comment, I believe, from a Teller hunter who's been out
24 several years now, that they're seeing fewer bulls on the
25 Federal public lands. And again, I don't, you know, mean
26 that that's the end of the world, but I think that should be
27 another cautionary note that would suggest -- because in some
28 cases we know so little about these animals and at such a new
29 hunt, that, you know, I would urge that we approach things
30 slowly and with caution because we, in some cases, we really
31 don't know what the outcome of some of these hunting
32 practices are. So where it seems safe to do so we've allowed
33 the harvest quotas to go up. We've tried to make more
34 flexible seasons.

35

36 But I point out that with respect to 22(D), I think
37 -- I don't know if the State comments have been read yet into
38 the record but I believe their comment, again, focused on
39 potential over harvest on Federal lands in 22(D). I would
40 also like to point out that they're -- the Federal Board,
41 there's a lawsuit right now somewhere in the court system, I
42 guess, from the Safari Club and others against the Federal
43 Board on a number of points including their C&T
44 determinations. But one of the things that, again, appears,
45 is the horrible mismanagement practices the Federal system in
46 relation to allowing over harvest of muskoxen within 22(D).
47 So I just point out how visible this issue is, how widespread
48 some of the concerns are and would again urge caution and to
49 see how the villages react and how they really want to
50 structure our hunt. Because I think down the road, the whole

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1 idea is to keep muskoxen out there and to give hunters the
2 best opportunity they can and I think we need to just keep
3 things moving and make fine-tune adjustments as we go along.

4
5 That's about all I've got on it.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I have a question. Table
8 1, on Page 11, from 1970 to -- it looks like the muskoxen
9 numbers went up by 66 animals in the Federal public lands and
10 then they went down by 33 between the years '94 to '96 and
11 they went up by 17. Is there any explanations besides
12 subsistence hunters?

13
14 MS. DEWHURST: They probably just moved off
15 the Federal lands, I suspect is what was going on between '94
16 and '96, is the animals -- the overall population if you can
17 see went -- well, actually the overall population dropped,
18 too, during that period. So it could have been some bad
19 winters in there, too, weather could have been a factor.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we have kind of a lot
22 of unknowns as to why the numbers are going down?

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: It could be BIA relocations.

25
26 MS. PERSONS: In 1996 it was a poor census,
27 there were very poor snow conditions. There were problems
28 coordinating the flights. The census took place over a
29 period of about six weeks so there was a chance for the
30 animals to move from one area to another. It was just a bad
31 census.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: Bad timing.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So even the numbers that
36 we're presenting do not adequately represent what's actually
37 happening in the BLM lands? It could be the animals are
38 moving, not because of hunting because of the poor weather
39 conditions and.....

40
41 MS. PERSONS: Well, we do know that.....

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:the lack of food?

44
45 MS. PERSONS:in '98 it was -- we had
46 excellent conditions. The entire census took place over a
47 three day period. We had really good observers. We, you
48 know, believe the information that we obtained from that
49 census.

50

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1 MR. KATCHEAK: Madame Chair, I have a
2 question.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ted.

5
6 MR. KATCHEAK: What part of the population
7 consists of females, bulls, do you have that?

8
9 MS. PERSONS: We don't have composition
10 information.

11
12 MR. KATCHEAK: It'd be interesting to know
13 because.....

14
15 MS. PERSONS: It really would be.

16
17 MR. KATCHEAK:it would make it much
18 more easier to do management.....

19
20 MS. PERSONS: Yes, absolutely.

21
22 MR. KATCHEAK:schemes and.....

23
24 MS. PERSONS: And we've asked for money next
25 year to begin composition work. But I don't know with the
26 declining monies I don't know whether we'll get money to do
27 that or not but we're hoping to.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: One recommendation that I
30 -- oh, sorry, Mr. Denton.

31
32 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton, Anchorage, BLM.
33 And I'm a little bit out of touch because this is out of my
34 region of influence, I guess. But I was briefed very shortly
35 on this issue. One of the concerns BLM has with over harvest
36 is not only maintaining the split but the State permits,
37 there's no guarantee that some of those State permits will
38 also harvest animals off of those BLM Federal lands which
39 would also be an additional harvest off of those Federal
40 lands. So this is kind of a red flag that becomes real
41 apparent if there's easily accessible Federal lands that have
42 muskox they're going to get harvested first. And so that's
43 one of the concerns that was relayed to me by BLM staff up in
44 this end of the word here.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Denton.
49 What I hear from Mr. Seetot, Elmer, is what you want to do is
50 defer this proposal until year 2000?

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1 MR. SEETOT: If that would be in the best
2 interest of the communities.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What I.....

5
6 MR. SEETOT: For harvest to take place
7 completely, I would think we would have -- the communities
8 would have to take chances under the State system, you know,
9 if they want to get the maximum number allowed for that
10 subunit.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What I had recommended
13 before to Kate and I think to -- I've known you forever.....

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: Ken.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:Ken, was that there
18 would be -- they would hold a meeting between the two
19 communities and see what their feel is regarding what should
20 happen. And I frankly believe that it's too soon to know,
21 this is the State's first Tier II hunt, too soon to know
22 what's going to happen and that at the end of this hunting
23 season, perhaps they hold a meeting to see which direction
24 the people would like to go. Either leave things status quo
25 or make changes before the next hunting season.

26
27 MR. SEETOT: This number, I would think,
28 would kind of contradict, I think what the biologists have
29 been trying to go for, a certain percentage of the population
30 within those lands.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. SEETOT: And then and if we put this
35 number, six and six or six from the Bering Land Bridge and
36 six from BLM, you know, we're going to be talking meeting
37 after meeting because there is not a certain number of
38 animals to -- you know, I mean a certain percentage of
39 animals within those lands, you know, for the harvest.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

42
43 MR. SEETOT: That that would be described by
44 the biologists figures. And then that would be, you know,
45 just be coming up meeting after meeting and then -- you know,
46 one of the things that would work would probably be based on
47 the populations within those areas instead of a set
48 figure.....

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

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1 MR. SEETOT:imposed, you know, by these
2 regulations.

3
4 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair, I have a question,
5 now within the hunting units, if the private land holders
6 pass policy and put their lands off limits to any hunting,
7 how would that effect the numbers?

8
9 MR. ADKISSON: You want me to take a stab at
10 that?

11
12 MS. DEGNAN: Yes.

13
14 MR. ADKISSON: Really what you're talking
15 about in -- Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. Really what
16 you're talking about in 22(D) is basically Federal public
17 lands, i.e., Bureau of Land Management and National Park
18 Service and you're talking about State and private lands.
19 And the private lands essentially there are either Native
20 allotments or largely village corporation lands. To my
21 knowledge, none of those are currently closed, but they --
22 they could choose to close them.

23
24 MS. DEGNAN: Let's say that they do.

25
26 MR. ADKISSON: Right now the basic hunting
27 activity for example in 22(D) by and large is by residents of
28 those two villages there. So I don't think there'd be a whole
29 lot of advantage gain to closing them. If you look at Kate's
30 figures, the only hunting that came from outside of 22(D)
31 within 22(D) this year was largely by Nome residents, White
32 Mountain and Golovin. And I believe Kate, in her report
33 indicates that most of that harvest was taking place in the
34 eastern part of the subunit over a long part of the road
35 system, I think Coffee Dome was mentioned in it. So I don't
36 think there would be a whole lot of advantage to it.

37
38 MS. DEGNAN: I'm not talking about the
39 advantage, I'm talking about the impact.

40
41 MR. ADKISSON: Well, for example, if Brevig
42 was to close its lands say to all but shareholders, basically
43 what they would exclude then would be, I don't know what,
44 maybe up to 10 hunters from Teller and some mix like that, if
45 Teller were supposed to take a similar action. It's really
46 to give the hunters right now the most flexibility.

47
48 If you live within 22(D) and hold a State permit, you
49 can hunt on State private lands and Federal public lands
50 within 22(D). If you have -- assuming you're Federally

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1 eligible and that you live in one of those two villages. If
2 you have a Federal permit for 22(D), you can only hunt on
3 Federal public lands. If you live outside the unit, let's
4 say you're a Nome resident and you have a 22(D) permit, then
5 you can only hunt on State and private lands. You cannot
6 hunt on the Federal public lands. So if they were to, you
7 know, take an action to close the -- say corporation lands,
8 the biggest impact would probably be on folks like from Nome.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

11
12 MR. ADKISSON: I don't know if that helps or
13 not, I know it's pretty confusing.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Peter.

16
17 MR. BUCK: I think if we went with the -- we
18 got a two percent hunt for the muskox for the whole region?

19
20 MS. PERSONS: Five.

21
22 MR. ADKISSON: No it's up to five percent
23 right now.

24
25 MR. BUCK: Okay, it's up to five percent.
26 And that five percent is not being met by hunters right?

27
28 MS. DEWHURST: No, it's not.

29
30 MR. BUCK: Okay, well, I think that we should
31 keep it at five percent so that five percent can be met
32 whichever way that we could to meet that five percent so that
33 we could get the permits in. Because you're not going to
34 educate the muskox with these Federal lands or BLM lands or
35 whatever because they're going to travel where they want to
36 travel. And I approve to stick as close to the five percent
37 rate of harvest that we have. There's a lot of people that
38 are opposed to muskox and they don't want to go -- but that
39 five percent should be met whichever way that we could.

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: This is a test year anyway,
42 a baseline year, beginning for the hunt, too. For this big
43 of a thing, I think, the joint State and Federal, it's a test
44 year we -- they don't know whether they're State or Federal
45 it's like Eskimos do, sometimes we think we're Federal,
46 sometimes we're State.

47
48 So being it's a test year, it looks like if Elmer
49 wants to say defer I would go with defer.

50

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1 MR. SEETOT: I think the communities of
2 Teller and Brevig, you know, like someone mentioned that they
3 should meet together jointly to see what course of action to
4 take because these are the two communities that are being
5 effected. Shishmaref, Wales, they have Federal land or that
6 Bering Land Bridge, you know, that is close to their
7 community. And they have the opportunity to hunt within a
8 wide range, you know, of land that they know that's within
9 the Federal public land. To impose the communities of Teller
10 and Brevig to hunt 100 miles just to bag or to harvest that
11 number, I don't think that you would find hunters, you know,
12 that are willing to travel a hundred mile distance just to
13 bag one muskox that is this big but when you skin it it goes
14 down 10 times.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. But I think weather
17 has a lot to do with it based on reports, too, as well
18 as.....

19
20 MR. SEETOT: Teller has more opportunity
21 because they are protected by Grantley Harbor whereas Brevig
22 is pretty much predominately offshore winds during the summer
23 months, Brevig -- or Teller is protected pretty much further
24 east and they can do whatever they want, you know, go in and
25 out of the river system as they please compared to Brevig.
26 You know, we have to.....

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, you got more open
29 land.

30
31 MR. SEETOT: And then we have.....

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: And that wind is a lot of
34 factor.

35
36 MR. SEETOT:chances with the weather.

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I have two questions. How
39 many muskoxen could one hunter take and carry back with them,
40 I mean if you had community harvest and you could take more,
41 you had designated hunter permits so you could take somebody
42 else's muskoxen?

43
44 MR. ENINGOWUK: It depends on the snow cover,
45 if the trail is too soft then one muskox is a heavy load.

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

48
49 MR. ENINGOWUK: But if you have hard snow
50 conditions then you're probably going to carry a lot more

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1 load without getting stuck so.....

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: How many more? Like what
4 would be the maximum?

5

6 MR. ENINGOWUK: I would say not more than
7 two.

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Not more than two.

10

11 MR. SEETOT: I think that realistically it
12 would be just the hide itself.

13

14 MR. ENINGOWUK: Uh-huh.

15

16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. SEETOT: Because the meat, after you
19 dress it, you know, it's just -- I had a big muskoxen and you
20 know, where'd all my meat go?

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: My other question was
23 we're not reaching the five percent and I mean obviously
24 people don't want to go hundred miles to get it but are there
25 other reasons why we're not getting to the five percent? Is
26 it because people aren't getting permits, people aren't
27 interested in hunting, you know, what are some of the other
28 factors?

29

30 MR. MENDENHALL: It's very cold.

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I mean is that all -- is
33 it -- are people saying, oh, I wish I had a permit or I mean
34 I just wondered what people are saying about it at all or has
35 it just been the weather? I mean do all the people have
36 permits -- who want permits, are they all getting permits?

37

38 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, according to.....

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No?

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL:what I heard, that some
43 people filled them out but never mailed them in, you know, so
44 people told them -- according to Jake.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: That's with the State Tier
47 II.

48

49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

50

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: He said that they filled
2 them out but never mailed them in on time, with Jake's report
3 from Kawerak from all the communities.

4
5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So maybe a community
6 harvest would be better.....

7
8 MS. DEGNAN: And have it locally managed
9 would be the best route.

10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's worked well in other
12 parts of the State where we've instituted that.

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL: It would ensure that the
15 communities that don't have AC and Hansens here, it would
16 ensure that they would get most of the permits.

17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: Which I think is the intent
21 of Tier II muskox.

22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: And we're having that same
26 problem here with salmon Tier II, trying to differentiate
27 that here in Nome because we have an AC and Hansens. They're
28 trying to use income and we don't want income involved, I
29 mean I don't. I think it's traditional subsistence --
30 customary and traditional practice. If it wasn't for the
31 miners that were 35,000 on the whole Seward Peninsula looking
32 for gold in the 1900s it would probably be pockets of muskox
33 here, but because they were in the way they got shot and it
34 was -- they didn't have AC and Hansens either then.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Mr. Adkisson.

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: That's -- if it went by
39 community quota it would ensure that no competition from
40 across the state.

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
43 Service. Let me just add a comment on that, the Federal
44 system in some ways has a lot more flexibility built into it,
45 I think, than the State system. Just as an example, in a way
46 we're almost attempting to try to reach a community quota now
47 for -- even though our permits are non-transferrable, when we
48 issue them and speak to the villagers and things, we
49 encourage hunters who discover that they're not going to be
50 able to hunt to turn their permit back in and then we'll

00067

1 issue a new permit to an alternate hunter. And we've done
2 this on several occasions. I can't claim the program is an
3 outrageous success because some hunters won't turn their
4 permits in and don't want to give them up even if they aren't
5 going to hunt. But we have done this on several occasions
6 and it's worked.

7
8 The most recent example, I think, we've probably
9 turned over two permits possibly in Wales where circumstances
10 were unfortunate that the original permit holder wasn't going
11 to be able to use it. And so you know, we have a certain
12 amount of flexibility to try to make the system work that
13 way. But you know, clearly it's not as, perhaps, easy on the
14 villages as would be a community harvest system.

15
16 Along with community harvest system, let me just, you
17 know, offer a bit of information. You know it's been
18 suggested, for example, that we sort of let nature take its
19 course in 22(D) and let people hunt wherever they want and
20 when we reach a predetermined harvest level, we then inform
21 the hunters that the say hunt on BLM lands is closed and they
22 have to hunt at that point over on the Park Service lands.
23 That sounds great in theory but if -- and if the hunt were
24 more dispersed over the hunting season, I think something
25 like that might work but as you can see what's going to
26 happen right now is is the bulk of the harvest is going to
27 take place in this closing two week period and when things
28 like that happen, it's very difficult to, you know, be very
29 flexible. So it is a tough situation and I think, you know,
30 the agencies are looking for ways to make things work better
31 for the villages and clearly the villages are interested in,
32 you know, finding a solution and I'm optimistic that down the
33 road we will work out a positive solution to the issue.

34
35 Keep in mind also, I think, that the reason for the
36 State hunt from a Federal users point of view, I guess, is it
37 allows Federally eligible users to hunt closer to home and
38 hunt -- and have access to those animals, some of which are
39 causing the folks problems, like trampling the berry patches
40 and things, where people traditionally go to harvest berries
41 and greens. Most of those kinds of problems are not
42 happening on Federal public lands they're happening on
43 allotments and village corporation lands, you know, near the
44 villages. And the only way to gain access to those animals
45 is really through the State program. So you know, we're
46 working on it and it's progressing.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anything further?

49
50 MR. ENINGOWUK: Since probably we're not

00068

1 going to agree with each other, could we defer this to our
2 fall meeting so that we could get more information from the
3 villages? At this time defer until our next meeting.

4

5 MR. MENDENHALL: Is that a motion?

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is that a motion?

8

9 MR. ENINGOWUK: I'll make that a motion.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: A motion has been made to
12 defer Proposal 47 to be discussed in our fall meeting.

13

14 MR. SEETOT: Point of order, was there a
15 motion already on Proposal 47?

16

17 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, to discuss.

18

19 MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay.

20

21 MR. MENDENHALL: There's a motion.....

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Excuse me.....

24

25 MR. ENINGOWUK: That was to defer.

26

27 MR. SEETOT: Oh, to defer.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:on that -- defer the
30 decision or whatever.

31

32 MR. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, the point of
33 procedure that Elmer requested is correct, you have a motion
34 on the floor. You can vote that motion down, but the motion
35 was to support Proposal 47 or to adopt Proposal 47. You can
36 put that back -- call it back to the floor, vote it down and
37 go to Johnson's motion providing that there's a second to
38 Johnson's motion to defer.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So there was a motion on
41 this earlier?

42

43 MR. HILDEBRAND: Yes, there was a motion by
44 Perry to adopt Proposal 47, second by Fran.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. I.....

47

48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.

49

50 MS. DEGNAN: I understood that motion to be

00069

1 to discuss.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right.

4

5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It was.

6

7 MS. HILDEBRAND: But even if it was a motion
8 to discuss.....

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: I made it for the motion to
11 pass -- I mean a motion to accept the Proposal 47 for the
12 purpose of discussion and action -- the vote is at the end.

13

14 MR. ENINGOWUK: I withdraw my motion.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, he withdraws his
17 motion so we -- so are we ready to vote on the original
18 question.

19

20 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So the question has been
23 made, all is in favor of the motion please signify by saying
24 aye.

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: Aye.

27

28 MS. DEGNAN: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All is opposed to the
31 motion.

32

33 MR. MENDENHALL: Aye.

34

35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Excuse me.

36

37 MR. HILDEBRAND: A clarification on the
38 motion. The motion was to adopt Proposal 47.

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Ida.....

41

42 MS. HILDEBRAND: If you vote yes on it it
43 will be accepted as it is written. If you want to defer
44 Proposal 47 you need to vote no on the original motion.

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: No, the -- the other thing
47 is that there can be a motion made to table it as well over
48 that and then -- then it would be tabled over the.....

49

50 MS. DEGNAN: It would take precedence over

00070

1 the original motion.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, the tabling would take
4 over -- and it still would be -- still could be brought up at
5 the next meeting that's Roberts, right?

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I believe and Tina can
8 check the accurate record, but my notes said that the motion
9 was to review the proposal, there was nothing said about.....

10

11 MS. DEGNAN: To adopt.

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:adopting it.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: To adopt it, that's my
16 understanding.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And is that right, Tina?

19

20 COURT REPORTER: Yeah.

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So there is no motion to
23 accept the proposal on the.....

24

25 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, it was to.....

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah.

28

29 MR. MENDENHALL:accept it.....

30

31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, you.....

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No, it was just to discuss
34 it.

35

36 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, that's not what was
39 said.

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, you have to have a
42 positive motion for accepting it before it can be discussed
43 and adopted.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The motion was for
46 discussion.

47

48 MR. KATCHEAK: But a motion was made, I
49 believe.....

50

00071

1 MS. DEGNAN: By Perry.

2
3 MR. KATCHEAK:by Perry.

4
5 MS. DEGNAN: And seconded by me.

6
7 MR. KATCHEAK: And we still have a motion on
8 the floor.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: To accept it.

11
12 MS. DEGNAN: To discuss it.

13
14 MR. KATCHEAK: And we can act on it now.

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: To review the proposal,
17 that's what it was.

18
19 MR. MENDENHALL: It was to accept the
20 proposal.

21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Tina, do you.....

23
24 COURT REPORTER: Exactly what you said was;
25 Make a motion for Proposal 47 to be reviewed.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: I meant for purpose of
28 discussion, yeah, to accept the Proposal.....

29
30 MS. DEGNAN: No, you did not say accept.

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: Madame Chair, I think when we
33 have a question of this sort -- this is Taylor Brelsford. It
34 seems to me that the maker of the motion and the seconder of
35 the motion would be the best people to explain what was
36 intended. And it seems to be agreed between the two of you
37 that the motion was to adopt the proposal for the purposes of
38 discussion.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But your concept was a
43 little different, wasn't it?

44
45 MS. DEGNAN: My concept was to put it on the
46 table for discussion.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: For discussion.

00072

1 MS. DEGNAN: For discussion not to adopt it.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: That's the understanding
4 that I had.

5

6 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, mine was for adoption
7 because.....

8

9 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, you're fine. You have
10 to.....

11

12 MR. MENDENHALL:you have to do that.

13

14 MR. BRELSFORD: Perhaps this is the simplest
15 way out and that would be to simply withdraw the original
16 motion on the part of the maker and the second and at that
17 point we are clean table, ready to proceed with Johnson's
18 motion that is based on the benefit of this additional hour
19 of discussion.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sounds good.

22

23 MR. BRELSFORD: So the simplest path would be
24 to back out.

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: I concur if the second.....

27

28 MS. DEGNAN: I concur.....

29

30 MR. MENDENHALL:concur.

31

32 MS. DEGNAN:with the maker of the
33 motion to withdraw.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. The original motion
36 has now been withdrawn so we will now consider Johnson's.....

37

38 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair, I'll make a
39 motion that we defer this to our fall -- to our next meeting
40 where we can get.....

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL: More information.

43

44 MR. ENINGOWUK:more information from
45 everybody.

46

47 MR. BUCK: Second.

48

49 MS. DEGNAN: Question.

50

00073

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been called,
2 all is in favor of the motion please signify by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
7 sign.

8
9 (No opposing responses)

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I missed who seconded it?

14
15 COURT REPORTER: Peter Buck.

16
17 MR. KATCHEAK: Madame Chair, I would like a
18 roll call vote on the next.....

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: This is a unanimous vote.

21
22 MR. KATCHEAK:I think it would be.....

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, I guess.....

25
26 MR. KATCHEAK:I mean for the record
27 that.....

28
29 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair, we've already
30 voted.

31
32 MR. MENDENHALL: Recess for lunch.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: A lunch period until 1:30.

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: 12:30, I'm on a diet.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: 1:15.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: 1:15.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: 1:15 it is.

43
44 (Off record - 12:04 p.m.)

45
46 (On record - 1:29 p.m.)

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'd like to call the
49 meeting of the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory
50 Council back to order at 1:29 p.m.

00074

1 We are now at the old business. Agency reports, the
2 first person to hear from is Ken Adkisson with the Bering
3 Land Bridge National Preserve.

4
5 MS. DEGNAN: Excuse me, Ms. Chairman, didn't
6 we have Toby Anungazuk on the ptarmigan?

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, yes, I'm sorry. Toby.

9
10
11 MR. ANUNGAZUK, JR.: There's the young people
12 at home that one of the things that we teach them about
13 hunting is when we go out camping the third -- starting the
14 third week of July, that we have our young people, the
15 teenagers and stuff, they start to hunt ptarmigan as early as
16 the third week of July and it's conflicting with the current
17 regulations of August 10th. And we'd like to make it to
18 where they hunt ptarmigans and it's not illegal.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Perry.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: I think, you know, in the
23 old days when I was young, and you were under 16 we won't be
24 arrested. As kids we used to be allowed to hunt, and we
25 didn't waste it because grandmothers and everybody else used
26 it, it was the only fresh meat we got out of camp.

27
28 I don't know if we should get the environmentalists
29 and save the bears and everybody alert to this practice out
30 in the rural areas of where it's being done already without
31 being in the regs. I don't know, you know, whether that
32 would be a red flag to everybody in the world that this is
33 being done. Since it is being done in a way or you want it
34 done in a legal sense?

35
36 MR. ANUNGAZUK, JR.: Well, I think it might
37 be better for those kids so they don't feel like they would
38 get into any trouble.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

41
42 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna,
43 Kawerak. Like I told you earlier, I sit on the Norton Sound
44 Advisory Council. And why we had that proposal and that made
45 into regulation, the times that we stated in that proposal
46 was to allow for immature birds to be harvested at a time
47 when they're able to fly in there because we were concerned
48 because on the road system here in Nome, generally when the
49 season was opened, they're real small, and that's why
50 addressing that concern, the Norton Seward Peninsula Advisory

00075

1 Committee (sic) made that regulation. Because, you know,
2 like I said they are really immature by the time the season
3 opened early. And we felt that it was proper to give them a
4 chance to grow a little bit bigger because -- and then Nome
5 road system, a lot of people do hunt ptarmigans and generally
6 they're pretty small about the time the ptarmigan season
7 opens here in Nome. So that's why that proposal read the way
8 it did because of the concerns of Nome hunters.

9
10 MS. DEGNAN: The road system.

11
12 MR. OLANNA: Yeah, and on the road system.
13 Because I seem them out there earlier and that's pretty --
14 those birds are pretty small, pretty immature when the season
15 opens early in Nome. I don't know how much difference there
16 is in the size up north. But generally, being from
17 Shishmaref, I know birds generally they age earlier in the
18 Nome area than they do at home. So that was why the State
19 Advisory Committee requested that -- we drafted that proposal
20 and it was passed by the Board of Game.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Wasn't there a later date,
23 later than August 10th?

24
25 MR. OLANNA: Yes, there is, yeah.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think September
28 something.

29
30 MR. OLANNA: I don't have the proposal.

31
32 MS. PERSONS: September 1.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: September 1?

35
36 MR. OLANNA: September 1, yeah. We opened it
37 a little later and extended the season a little bit longer.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: For the entire.....

40
41 MR. OLANNA: For 22.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:Unit 22?

44
45 MR. OLANNA: Right.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: In terms of children under
48 a certain age, hunting -- is that a violation for ptarmigan,
49 one of the -- Denton is shaking his head.

50

00076

1 MR. DENTON: If you have an Alaska -- in fact
2 that's a State regulation, I think, under 15 a license is not
3 required. But you still have to adhere to the seasons.....

4
5 MS. PERSONS: Right.

6
7 MR. DENTON:that are established.

8
9 MS. PERSONS: Right.

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, when I was growing up
12 you got it anyway because that was the only meat we had.

13
14 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: We didn't have any
17 refrigerators or anything out there and that was our means of
18 staying out there in camp. And I think that's the situation,
19 too, where Wales is, where they don't have any stores to rely
20 on. I think it's part of a tradition for young kids to get
21 fresh meat for their camps. And I -- I don't have one way or
22 the other, you know, on I'm just trying to be in the defense
23 for Wales. That it traditionally was a practice for young
24 kids to do that.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I learned how to hunt with
27 smaller game.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, then the graduate and
30 then they know how to hunt.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Kate.

33
34 MS. PERSONS: A couple of years ago the
35 biologist up in Kotzebue proposed eliminating the ptarmigan
36 season altogether. This was the State's biologist. He
37 figured there really wasn't a biological concern with
38 harvesting ptarmigan year-round and he wanted to be able to
39 just get off people's backs and let them do what they wanted
40 to do in camp. But he wasn't able to get anywhere with that
41 within our State system.

42
43 And as Jake pointed out, the reason that that
44 proposal was submitted and passed by the Board of Game last
45 year that limited ptarmigan season was because of concern on
46 the road system, and I suppose it might even be something
47 maybe for the Advisory Committee to address again and perhaps
48 maybe only make that apply to 22(C) or areas along the road
49 system because it is a different situation when people are in
50 camp as opposed to just driving the roads.

00077

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You were talking mainly to
2 extend it as early as the third week of July, right?

3
4 MR. ANUNGAZUK, JR.: Right.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we're talking about a
7 week -- well, actually September's a long ways, but in the
8 Federal it's about a week isn't it, because August 1st?

9
10 MS. DEWHURST: August 10th.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: August 10th, so it's a
13 little over a week. But it would be something that he can
14 bring as a form of a proposal for this fall meeting that we
15 could present with stated reasons why. And Cliff, perhaps
16 maybe before the next fall meeting, you can assist Mr.
17 Anungazuk with a proposal to be submitted from this body.

18
19 MR. EDENSHAW: May I make a comment, too,
20 Madame Chair. In regards to Toby's concern about ptarmigan
21 for educational purposes, you know, with the -- or what the
22 Council may consider doing, is, you know, the time line for
23 proposals won't open again until after -- sometime in August.
24 And then the call for proposals, it will close in October and
25 then the following year the Council will meet. So you know,
26 the Council, the option they may want to take in regards to
27 Federal lands in Wales and Shishmaref is they can always --
28 and you know, I know the Board came up with a new policy
29 regarding special action requests, but the Council could
30 stipulate in their request that they would plan on submitting
31 a proposal the following year to make that a regulation
32 change. That's something they could consider doing if Toby
33 -- because other regions, I've seen submit special action
34 requests for moose, ceremonial, potlatches, a one time deal,
35 but that was regarding ceremonial but this would be for
36 educational purposes for the youth.

37
38 MS. DEWHURST: Toby, I did have one question,
39 I wonder -- are you camped on Federal land or is this
40 something you're talking about more on around Wales?

41
42 MR. ANUNGAZUK, JR.: There's a camp right at
43 the -- it's maybe 23 miles north or something like that, but
44 there's a camp right at the Bering Land Bridge.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we're talking about
47 going through State and camps being scattered all over?

48
49 MR. ANUNGAZUK, JR.: Yeah.

50

00078

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But there are some in
2 Bering Land Bridge?

3
4 MR. ANUNGAZUK, JR.: Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So explain to me special
7 action again? How do you.....

8
9 MS. DEWHURST: I could.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

12
13 MS. DEWHURST: Any time something comes out
14 of cycle, you know, the normal cycle put a proposal in in the
15 fall and it gets decided on in the spring, any time something
16 comes out of cycle but as Cliff mentioned they did come up
17 with some new guidance on those. It doesn't prevent you from
18 permitting them but it is possible that they won't get
19 accepted. That basically there has to be some sort of
20 extenuating circumstance for why you want to take up a
21 proposal out of cycle.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

24
25 MS. DEWHURST: Weather, you know, whatever.
26 In the case of Bristol Bay there was the bust to the fishing
27 season last summer causing a hardship on the people. You
28 know there has to be some sort of extenuating circumstances
29 for taking it out of cycle is the main thing.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh. So Toby, do you
32 want to see if we could -- if this body would try to submit a
33 request for a special action or submit a proposal when
34 proposal time comes?

35
36 MR. ANUNGAZUK, JR.: It might be better to
37 wait for the proposal cycle.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

40
41 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna from
42 Kawerak. On the same subject, like Kate said, I'll
43 definitely bring it up with our Chairman of Norton Sound
44 Advisory Council, and like Kate said maybe we can work this
45 regulation into subunits because that would address Nome's
46 concern about the road system that we operate out of here in
47 Nome.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

50

00079

1 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you for bringing
4 that up Toby. Is there anything else on this?

5

6 So we'll move on to Ken Adkisson with Bering Land
7 Bridge National Preserve.

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, Council members,
10 Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I'll keep the report
11 really short in the interest of time. The basic thing I
12 wanted to cover in the report I've already covered and that
13 was the status of the muskoxen hunt as it related to the six
14 Federally eligible users. And I'll be glad to provide the
15 Recorder with a copy of the same report that I gave you and
16 she can incorporate that into the record.

17

18 The only other real thing that I have to share with
19 you this afternoon is sort of an informational note related
20 to some research. And the Western Arctic National Park lands
21 over the last several years has been conducting some
22 subsistence research in a number of northern Seward Peninsula
23 and Kotzebue area communities. We undertook harvest studies
24 in Wales, Shishmaref, Deering and Noatak and some traditional
25 brown bear subsistence use work in Shishmaref and Deering.
26 And those studies were undertaken in conjunction with the
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence
28 as well as Kawerak, Maniilaq and the village organizations
29 themselves. That work is basically nearing completion and
30 we've got in hand now basic initial draft copies of reports
31 for that.

32

33 Some of the information is already available. The
34 harvest data itself is available through the Alaska
35 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence
36 Community Profile Database. And I've left with the Council
37 members copies of an article, a short article that appeared
38 in a journal called Cultural Survival which that issue, you
39 can see from the cover, was devoted to subsistence issues in
40 the state. And one of the articles related to family and
41 household organizations and so forth as related to
42 subsistence, was based largely in part of some of the
43 research that was undertaken in Wales and Deering. So I just
44 wanted to share that with you and you might find that of
45 interest. And if you have any comments I would, you know,
46 greatly appreciate hearing them. And we'll probably have
47 more to say on the research projects later on, maybe next
48 year, as they get further into the report phase of it.

49

50 That's all I really had.

00080

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions for Ken
2 Adkisson? Thank you, Ken. Jeff Denton with Bureau of Land
3 Management.

4
5 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton, Anchorage Field
6 Office, BLM. I can't represent the northern office of BLM
7 other than some minor briefing statements, they don't have a
8 representative here and I'm not real familiar with what's
9 going on up there.

10
11 They have had a new, what we used to call district
12 manager, they now have a new field office manager, his name
13 is Snyder. I think the man is still getting his feet on the
14 ground and still needs to, probably, be indoctrinated a
15 little bit to the Seward Peninsula issues and subsistence
16 needs so he can assign appropriate people to work on these.
17 So that's about all I can tell you about the northern office
18 and what's going on.

19
20 The Anchorage Field Office, I think Grace had asked
21 earlier on some follow-up on some of the project work we were
22 doing and one was land cover mapping. BLM and Fish and
23 Wildlife Service, last year conducted 15 million acres of
24 satellite imagery groundtruthing for land cover mapping. It
25 covered a large portion of Unit 22, it covered all the
26 Unalakleet, Shaktoolik drainages and all the country around
27 St. Michaels and the Nulato Hills as far as the Unalakleet
28 River drainage. It also covered a large region over in the
29 Innoko Yukon and as well as the Yukon-Delta, Anvik country.
30 So the final product, Ducks Unlimited does the computer
31 mapping and analysis of that. We'll see final products on
32 that this spring. As for the next coming field season we
33 will be covering the north end of the Nulato Hills which is
34 also your far eastern section of Unit 22. So that effort
35 will continue and next spring there will be map and
36 quantitative land cover mapping to vegetation types and so
37 on, waters, types of wetlands, for that region as well. And
38 there's about 5 million acres involved in that project for
39 this year. So all total between the last two years, we have
40 20 million acres of land cover mapping that will have been
41 done out here. And so that's one of the bigger projects.

42
43 Also our fisheries folks, I think they're working
44 with Charlie here, and I think Kawerak, and I think also the
45 village folks in Unalakleet to try to get the weir on the
46 North River up and running for the indexing fisheries work
47 for the Unalakleet drainage. And also the gage station on
48 the Unalakleet River is trying to be worked up as a
49 cooperative agreement to run that gaging station. Several
50 reasons for that is to get the flow data, one to meet the

00081

1 State's requirements for in-stream flows, which requires, at
2 least, I think a 10 year stream gaging data situation. So
3 those things are ongoing and in the works.

4
5 Harvest reporting has been done the last couple of
6 years by Vern Harvey in Unalakleet. We haven't received a
7 report down there for 10 months, which is unfortunate. I
8 think he has the information he just hasn't got it to us.
9 But he has done excellent work for the previous two or three
10 years before that. We'd like, maybe Frances can knock on his
11 door and encourage some of that harvest data for Unalakleet
12 so we can compile it and actually look at a five year
13 running, you know, average of the harvest and the situation
14 where -- and mostly this is really important because it
15 differentiates harvest that's taking place on Federal public
16 land jurisdiction and differentiates from State jurisdiction
17 lands. So it's fairly critical in terms of the Federal
18 program.

19
20 This particular year I haven't received any reports
21 of wanton waste during the subsistence season. It was mostly
22 in past years centered around Unalakleet and around St.
23 Michaels, I haven't received any reports this year. We're
24 finding far fewer bears that are killed and left lay in the
25 summer time, due to what reason, I don't know. Part of it
26 may be poor fish runs and the bears aren't concentrated on
27 the rivers. We don't know for sure. We only found one bear
28 last year when mostly we find upwards of 10 bears. Whether
29 that's significant or not, I don't know.

30
31 We are doing some bear monitoring work. We're trying
32 to establish some bear population monitoring just in terms of
33 productions on the south side of Norton Sound from St.
34 Michaels to the Golsovia. And that data is premature yet
35 until we have a few years of data to see if that's really
36 going to give us what we need.

37
38 So those are the things that are just kind of going
39 on down there in your region with BLM from the Anchorage
40 office perspective.

41
42 MS. DEGNAN: In reference to not finding
43 anything -- I think the ravens are probably getting a good
44 feast.

45
46 MR. DENTON: Well, that's possibly true.

47
48 MS. DEGNAN: Nothing goes to waste.

49
50 MR. DENTON: Right. Well, in some years we

00082

1 get some pretty hostile reports from people who are very,
2 very irritated with what's going on and so I just -- this
3 year -- we keep track of those and we haven't had any this
4 year, which is the first year in the eight years I've been
5 there that we haven't got some very animated complaints about
6 wanton waste during the winter season. And then also from
7 the summer season for bears, the kill on bears has been --
8 whether it's rumor or otherwise, we have found quite a few
9 dead bears that are left lay along the rivers or floating in
10 the rivers and what have you, so we haven't -- we only found
11 one last year compared with many, many more in previous
12 years.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Perry.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Your lack of report for 10
17 months, it was asked for by this Committee before to help us
18 make decisions on some of the rulings on this Committee, and
19 I think it's important that we try to get those reports.

20
21 MR. DENTON: Right. I.....

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: Because, you know, we like
24 to make the final decision on some of the issues like that
25 cow thing we had and the.....

26
27 MR. DENTON: Right.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL:Unalakleet River and
30 those kind of things and in that section, we don't -- we
31 can't really make a true decision when we don't have the
32 report that you said we should have.

33
34 MR. DENTON: Yeah. And we contract certain
35 individuals to do that and they're willing -- if they're
36 willing to do that, and you know, it's kind of a problem.
37 People have their personal lives, I know this particular
38 individual, they just had a child born here in Nome, there
39 must have been complications, they were here in Nome for a
40 while. So there's things like that and so we are pretty
41 flexible as long as we get the reports within a reasonable
42 amount of time but 10 months is starting to get a little
43 unreasonable. And I give him a call once a week. He gives
44 me the impression that he has the information but he just
45 hasn't had the time to sit down and put it in a form to send
46 it to us.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: I think we need to.....

49
50 MS. DEGNAN: I'll ask him.....

00083

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

2
3 MS. DEGNAN:when I get back.

4
5 MR. MENDENHALL: I think we need to put this
6 into the annual report, that 10 month delay.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: When we come to the item of
11 the annual reports.

12
13 MR. DENTON: And it's not a mandatory thing
14 in any of the villages in Alaska, essentially, except
15 Lime(ph) Village where it's required by regulation because
16 they have some special situations there. But we have gone on
17 a voluntary kind of basis, BLM has for several villages for
18 reporting systems where there's a need for that kind of
19 information, especially the distribution of the harvest and
20 you know, some of the biological parts of the harvest, sex,
21 ratio, so on and so forth. So it's kind of voluntary, we pay
22 them for it if they're willing to do it. And it's always --
23 you know, we've got seven villages doing this now and you
24 know, six of those, we have some degree of difficulty with
25 getting the reports. So it's not an isolated situation.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: But we were expecting, you
28 know.....

29
30 MR. DENTON: Right.

31
32 MR. MENDENHALL:because there was --
33 you said there would be such a report and we were expecting
34 it.

35
36 MR. DENTON: Well, we write a contract but we
37 don't have much of a hammer to require the contract to be
38 fulfilled except non-payment if the reports don't come in.
39 So that's the only real -- you know, it takes quite a bit of
40 a commitment on the individual that's going to do it for us
41 and we realize that.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any further questions or
44 any questions for Mr. Denton, or comments? Not hearing any,
45 I want to thank you for coming to this meeting.

46
47 MR. DENTON: Thank you. Well, my normal
48 problem is I have conflicts. My particular area of
49 jurisdiction covers six of the 10 units and right now there's
50 a conflict meeting going on in YK-Delta, so I chose this one

00084

1 this time.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you very much.

4

5 MR. DENTON: So that's part of the problem I
6 have. Thank you.

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: Does he need anything from
9 us?

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Let me ask him.

12

13 MR. MENDENHALL: Just ask him, just a
14 courtesy.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Mr. Denton, any time you
17 need anything from us, you let us know and I'm glad you asked
18 Fran for assistance.

19

20 MR. DENTON: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Taylor.

23

24 MR. BRELSFORD: Madame Chair, thank you.
25 I'll be reporting very briefly on the results of some ongoing
26 consultation with villages about the migratory bird
27 management bodies. This is found under Tab T. And normally,
28 the people who work with this program would be Mimi Hogan and
29 Bob Stevens but they have prepared a written report. I'll
30 simply highlight a couple of lines from that for your
31 benefit. We had a much more extensive briefing on this in
32 the fall meeting, if you recall, in the evening there were
33 some slides showing the geographic fly-aways and so on. So
34 this is really just follow-up to report on the results of
35 those consultation meetings that were held all around the
36 state.

37

38 So the background of this is that the Migratory Bird
39 Treaty Act, the statute in the United States, implementing
40 the Migratory Bird Treaty has been modified to recognize the
41 spring and summer harvests. The key step right now is to
42 establish management bodies. The statute provides that
43 village people will have a meaningful role in putting
44 together regulations for these spring and summer harvests.
45 So what the program is focused on right now is to identify
46 the best way to organize these management bodies or co-
47 management bodies. And what occurred between September and
48 November, prior to Christmas, were meetings in Nome,
49 Kotzebue, Fort Yukon, Allakaket, Naknek, Bethel, Dillingham
50 and Barrow.

1 The steps, where we are in the decision-making
2 process, if you look to the next page of the report, it
3 indicates that the document summarizing the public comments
4 will be out by the end of March, by March '99 and then there
5 will be a public comment period and the final plan, the
6 proposed management body structure will come out in the
7 summer of '99 and then the management bodies would actually
8 be up and running by September of 1999. At that point new
9 regulations would be formulated to provide legal hunting
10 harvest seasons in the spring and summer for migratory water
11 fowl.

12
13 The next several pages are kind of a summary -- a
14 specific summary of comments under several different
15 categories and I won't read all of those but there are just a
16 couple of things that will kind of bring it to mind as far as
17 what's going on. In the first section under the creation of
18 management bodies one idea had to do with the management body
19 that would correspond to each of the fly-aways so there would
20 be three or four for Alaska as a whole, and they would be
21 structured along the way -- the biological basis of the fly-
22 aways. Another one -- another major alternative on the table
23 would be one single state wide management body. And many of
24 you are familiar with the Migratory Bird Working Group. In
25 fact, Charles Brower from Barrow is listed as the Chairman of
26 that group in the materials you have. And there have been
27 representatives from this region, too, one representative
28 from the Bering Straits region, Jake, that would be an
29 example of a state wide management body.

30
31 There's some other options identified there that
32 would be regional in focus. One would be the idea of
33 following the regional tribal associations, the Maniilaq,
34 Kawerak, AVCP breakout of organizational bodies. And another
35 way to look at this regionally would be to have the Regional
36 Councils, you guys, serve as the management body for the
37 migratory bird management program as well in addition to the
38 Title VIII, the subsistence program that you see now.

39
40 There's no final decision on which one of those is
41 the better alternative and there were voices in favor of each
42 of those alternatives across the meetings.

43
44 I want to turn to the next page and there's a section
45 on who should coordinate the regional participation. And the
46 second bullet is the one I wanted to just highlight to you.
47 It talks about the idea that the regional non-profit
48 associations or the tribal associations like Kawerak could
49 have a role in facilitating and providing the management or
50 the administration for these regional management bodies.

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1 This would be an idea that Fran was referring to earlier as
2 the contracting or compacting with regional tribal
3 organizations to provide the administrative support for the
4 management bodies. Again, the decision is not final but it's
5 certainly a viable option with key support behind that idea.

6
7 There are, in the next section, regionally specific
8 situations in the AVCP region, many of you know there's a
9 kind of decade of experience in the Waterfowl Conservation
10 Committees and it would be very valuable to build on the WCCs
11 rather than replacing them with a new and a green
12 organization. In the Yukon Flats there's a little bit
13 political structure around the Council of Athabaskan Tribal
14 Governments. So I think the point here is that we have to be
15 attentive to regional differences in trying to organize the
16 management program on a state wide basis.

17
18 The final section has really a big array of questions
19 and comments but the last one, the last bullet on Page 5 is
20 the one I wanted to bring up to your attention. And that is
21 that one of the key considerations in making a final decision
22 on this management structure is going to have to do with
23 budgets. A state wide organization, obviously is more
24 efficient from a budgetary standpoint than 12 or 13 regional
25 organizations. so I think they're trying to strike a balance
26 between a responsive program that will work well at the
27 grassroots level, at the regional level on the one hand, but
28 also make the available budget stretch so that the
29 organizations really do have good secure administrative
30 programs, good technical follow-up, all of that. And if you
31 stretch the budget too thin, then you may run into trouble
32 with running out of money for meetings on a regular basis or
33 not having the staff to provide the necessary support.

34 So in short, there's no conclusion on this one at
35 this point. The range of options, the range of comments are
36 kind of tallied and summarized up for you here but there is
37 no final decision on it. And instead that will be coming out
38 after march and there will be an additional round of public
39 comment available to you as a Council and to your villages.

40
41 So I think the key on this is to keep vigilant, kind
42 of watch closely and see what the recommendation looks like
43 and then speak out on behalf your regions, on behalf of your
44 villages. This has been almost a generation of effort to
45 bring out of the shadows the spring waterfowl harvest that
46 Native people in Alaska have relied on for a very long time.
47 It's taken many years to achieve the changes in the treaty
48 and then the changes in the statute, so we're close. We've
49 come a long, long way. And in this last section, when we're
50 setting up the organization, the management structure, it'd

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1 be really good if you guys could watch the recommendations
2 and then really provide your comments and your input as this
3 final decision will be made this upcoming summer.

4
5 So I hope I've kind of drawn to your attention the
6 key points in this and if there were any questions or
7 comments, I'm finished.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any questions
10 or comments for Taylor?

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: We'll probably have more
13 after the report comes out.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So you watch your e-mail
16 and fax and mailbox.

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you very much. Kate
21 Persons, Charlie Lean and Peter Bente.

22
23 MS. PERSONS: Bente's not here.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

26
27 MS. PERSONS: Okay, most of what I had we
28 already covered this morning when we were talking about
29 muskox. Cliff mentioned something to me this morning, I just
30 wanted to clarify about the Tier II muskox hunt. And that
31 is, that even though a number of individuals from Nome got
32 permits this year, that was because people from Brevig and
33 Teller didn't apply. And even though people from Nome are
34 going to get points now for having harvested a muskox, people
35 from Brevig and Teller will still outscore them based on
36 standard of living. So I just wanted to make sure that
37 everybody understood that, in fact, there is good reason to
38 apply and if they do apply they will get permits and outscore
39 people from Nome.

40
41 Then the other thing pertaining to muskox that I
42 should mention is how the State can address this issue of not
43 all the permits being filled and five percent harvest not
44 being achieved. We don't have the option of having an
45 alternate list the way you guys do with your Federal system.
46 But over the next couple of years, we'll look at the harvest
47 and see how many animals actually are harvested and if less
48 than five percent -- if not all of the permits are filled,
49 then we have the option of issuing more permits in future
50 years once we figure out, on the average, how many permits

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1 are not used. And that's the way the State deals with this
2 in their Tier II hunts.

3
4 Other than that, Grace asked me to talk about what we
5 know about the Unit 22 brown bear population. And we have
6 only had one census in Unit 22 and that was back in the early
7 '90s and it was a census of Unit 22(C), western 22(B),
8 eastern 22(D) and southern 22(E), and it's about a 12,500
9 square mile area. And in that area, in the early '90s they
10 estimated 458 bears that were older than two years old. And
11 so that comes out to be about one bear for every 27 square
12 miles. And we don't have anymore information beyond that.
13 These censuses require capturing and marking bears, they're
14 really expensive. It's not likely we're going to do another
15 census because it would cost, you know, more than three times
16 what my operating budget is for a year. So we have to just
17 go on impressions by our Staff, the public and any other just
18 little bits of information that we can piece together.

19
20 And at the time of the census, the management goal
21 for brown bears in Unit 22 was to maintain the population at
22 that level that was censused in '92. And we believe that
23 since then the population has increased. And in response to
24 that in October of '98, the Board of Game made a couple of
25 changes that liberalized brown bear hunting in the unit and
26 we've got now the subsistence hunt that allows people to
27 harvest a bear every year with a registration permit that
28 costs nothing so people don't have to purchase a bear tag.
29 And then the other thing is that the season was extended to
30 make one long season, bear season's open right now and I saw
31 a bear yesterday, and so you don't have to wait until the
32 15th of April now to hunt. And both those changes actually
33 went into effect in September and so we haven't even had one
34 full season with these changes in effect. So we don't know
35 how these changes are going to effect the harvest yet and we
36 won't know until the season is over.

37
38 And so at this point, we're not looking at making any
39 additional changes to bear regulations until we see the
40 effect of what has already occurred. I forgot to mention
41 that those changes did not apply to Unit 22(C), and the
42 reason for that was there was concern about all the Nome
43 sport hunters that are really into bear hunting, having easy
44 access to bears and killing too many and also.....

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: We won't.

47
48 MS. PERSONS:indications were that the
49 large -- the segment of large males and the population in
50 22(C) already was over harvested, okay. So that was the

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1 feeling at the time the Board met last October but we are
2 rethinking that, and we're open to the possibility perhaps of
3 -- well, it's just too soon. We're thinking about it, we
4 want input from the public but we are considering the
5 possibility of perhaps liberalizing the season also in C
6 because there are just an increasing number of problems with
7 bears in C. And probably not a day goes by in the summer
8 that somebody doesn't call me about -- complaining about
9 bears. So that's all I have to say about bears.

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: It's open now?

12
13 MS. PERSONS: It's open now, yeah, except not
14 in C.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Oh, you mean I can't pay my
17 quarter?

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any further questions for
20 Kate?

21
22 MR. SEETOT: I think I mentioned, I recall
23 talking, I think, with you about differences between the
24 State permits and hunting on -- or one of the staff on
25 Federal land. One would require State permit for -- you would
26 bag a brown bear for trophy value while for subsistence
27 purposes the paws -- or the claws would be cut out?

28
29 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, it doesn't have anything
30 to do with where you hunt in terms of State or Federal land,
31 anywhere. If you are hunting under the general season you
32 can only take one bear a year or one bear every four years
33 and you have to have a \$25 bear tag. And then you can --
34 after you harvest it you bring the hide and skull to a
35 sealing agent and get it sealed and you can have it tanned.
36 You can keep the hide and skull intact as a trophy. With the
37 subsistence hunt if the bear skin leaves the brown bear
38 management area then the trophy value has to be destroyed.
39 If you're hunting with a registration permit that cost you
40 nothing, it's for food, if you were to send that to a tannery
41 to have it tanned, the hide would have to have the skin of
42 the head and the paws removed. But if you're just going to
43 take it home and use it as a sleeping mat you don't have to
44 do anything to it. It's only if it leaves the brown bear
45 management area or is sent to Shishmaref to be tanned that
46 you have to mess with the destroying the trophy value. And
47 that's just to prevent people who are trophy hunters from
48 hunting one bear every year just to get a big rug and skull
49 to put in their house.

50

00090

1 MR. SEETOT: That was the comment I made.
2 Because this -- or the past summer, brown bears dug up walrus
3 pits, you know, where they catch their walrus.

4
5 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. SEETOT: And so ironically the residents,
8 you know, do not really hunt brown bear for meat or, you
9 know, for sport.

10
11 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

12
13 MR. SEETOT: They just kind of fear them in a
14 way that you live them alone they leave you alone. But I
15 guess due to the scarcity of.....

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: Fish.

18
19 MR. SEETOT:fish and food that they get
20 from beachcombing, you know, the scarcity of that animals or
21 the stuff that they were used to eating over the summer and
22 they kind of -- you know, went into the village at night and
23 pretty much dug five or six pits, you know, the.....

24
25 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

26
27 MR. SEETOT:owners of the pits were
28 mad. I just told them, you know, don't blame the brown bear.
29 We, as people, had the opportunity to hunt them over the
30 years but we just tend to leave them alone, you know. All of
31 a sudden we have a crises, now, they want to, you know, just
32 kill them off. You know they're --if they had hunted them by
33 regulation, one bear, every four years, you know, they could
34 have kept the bear population in check by those means. But I
35 know over the past 20 years, maybe no more than 10 bears have
36 been taken by residents.....

37
38 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. SEETOT:in 22(D), and that was kind
41 if ironic. Because all of a sudden the bears are the enemies
42 because, you know, the caches have been taken for food by the
43 bears.

44
45 MS. PERSONS: Well, when a bear comes into
46 your community and digs up those walrus pits, that bear can
47 be killed in defense of life and property. And I spoke with,
48 I think it's, is it Warren Rock? He called me about this and
49 I talked with our protection officer about it and under those
50 circumstances, it's acceptable to kill that bear. You need

00091

1 to catch it, you know, in the act, it can't just be any bear
2 walking around the country side minding its own business.
3 But if you can catch the bear doing the job, it's fair enough
4 to kill it in defense of life and property.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And if you're in a village
7 and you kill a bear in defense of life and property, what is
8 it that you send to Fish and Game?

9
10 MS. PERSONS: The hide and skull and we pay
11 the freight.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, you pay the freight?

14
15 MS. PERSONS: Yes.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Because we've done
18 that here and all we had to do is drive the hide and the
19 skull over.

20
21 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, it has to be skinned and
22 the hide and skull sent to Fish and Game and we'll pay the
23 shipping, yeah.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Perry.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: Since you're on the record,
28 I want to put this on the record for Nome that we had quite a
29 bit of bear around the Nome area. And I think when they
30 visited the northern advisory council, some of the people
31 here did not want any bears shot because they were concerned
32 about tourism. But meanwhile we were concerned about kids
33 and elders being out there doing fishing, berry picking and
34 camping and we do have knowledge of on this side of Cape
35 Nome, where there was one group that found a bear that moves
36 around within three miles, another bear who comes down and
37 moves around a certain part of that beach all the way up to
38 Port Davis.

39
40 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: So we know at least four
43 bears patrolling sections between Nome River and Cape. And
44 that's too many plus.....

45
46 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL:not counting the cubs
49 that are being taught to go into tents and stuff.

50

00092

1 MS. PERSONS: There definitely are some bad
2 bears in this area that have learned some really bad.....

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: Breaking into cabins and
5 getting the moose meat.

6
7 MS. PERSONS:behavior. And probably
8 the only way to deal with those bears is to kill those
9 particular bears. And it's difficult, I know, because they
10 tend to come when nobody is at the camp and so it's hard to
11 catch them in the act. They're smart enough to stay away
12 when people are there and then as soon as you leave
13 there.....

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: My wife confronted one with
16 two cubs but she knew it had cubs but she said shoo, shoo go
17 away and our cabin's up quite a ways and I was looking out
18 the window and the bear stood up and it's bigger than the
19 cabin, you know, by the time it stood up.....

20
21 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL:and looked back at her.
24 She tried to become part of the cabin. And then she moved
25 out when I came out, you know.

26
27 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: She didn't tell me were
30 moving out of camp. She said, pack your stuff let's go, I
31 said, we'll come back this fall, she said no.

32
33 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: So that's how of a scary
36 situation it is for some of those people up there alone.

37
38 MS. PERSONS: Well, one thing that I hope
39 we'll have by this summer is a culvert trap that we can use
40 to set at some of these camps to try and catch some of these
41 problem bears. Because I know there's one at Cape Wuley that
42 has just done tremendous damage. It's been in and out of,
43 you know, a half a dozen camps and it's just -- it's just one
44 bear.

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: And they're getting bolder
47 now, they're even coming into the outside of Nome, a little
48 ways outside of Nome now.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Inside of Nome.

00093

1 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

2
3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Peter.

4
5 MR. BUCK: Can you tell us again what -- if
6 you kill a bear in defense of life and property, what do you
7 have to do to skin the claws and getting them to Nome?

8
9 MS. PERSONS: You have to send it to us, to
10 Fish and Game.

11
12 MR. BUCK: You got to skin it?

13
14 MS. PERSONS: You got to skin it, yeah, you
15 do have to skin it.

16
17 MR. BUCK: And then turn it in?

18
19 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh. And there's a form
20 that you have to fill out explaining the circumstances.
21 Because I mean they can't be killed just because they're, you
22 know, walking around your camp. They have to be causing a
23 problem. They have to be getting into stuff, destroying your
24 property or threatening your life. And it's hard, it's hard
25 to -- I mean if you judge that your life is threatened by
26 that bear, that's your judgment, you're not going to be
27 challenged on that, I don't believe.

28
29 But it isn't legal just to shoot a bear who's walking
30 by the camp minding its own business not.....

31
32 MR. MENDENHALL: Unless you have rubber
33 bullets, right?

34
35 MS. PERSONS: Unless you have rubber bullets,
36 yeah. Yeah.

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: And they get them from who?

39
40 MS. PERSONS: You can get them from me at the
41 Fish and Game office?

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: Where?

44
45 MS. PERSONS: Or you can buy them -- I don't
46 know if they have them here at Outfitters or not.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: We don't know where -- they
49 don't like rubber bullets?

50

00094

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: She said you can get them
2 from her.

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

4
5 MS. PERSONS: If somebody is having a problem
6 with a bear I can give them out.

7
8 MR. BUCK: You get them mad and they'll
9 attack.

10
11 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. Yeah, generally I don't
12 -- I've given them out to the village public safety people.
13 I generally don't give them out to individuals because
14 there's the danger -- you got to make sure you are backed up,
15 you've got to have someone with you with a rifle because if
16 it -- generally they're pretty effective but if they're not
17 there's the potential there for.....

18
19 MR. MENDENHALL: You could irritate them.

20
21 MS. PERSONS:it could really irritate
22 them.

23
24 MS. DEWHURST: I've used rubber slugs a
25 number of times when I worked down on the Alaska Peninsula
26 where most of you know there's lots and lots of brown bears
27 and we had field camps. We always had bear problems and
28 they'd get into our trash pits and things like that and we
29 rubber slugged a lot of bears down there and I can tell you
30 first hand if you do it right it works, they don't come back
31 most of the time. But you got to be really careful, you can
32 kill a bear with a rubber slug if you shoot it in the wrong
33 place. You've got to shoot them in the rump and you got to
34 be fairly close and, like Kate says, you got to have back up,
35 you don't want to do it by yourself. But they do work. They
36 send them running like banshees and they usually don't come
37 back.

38
39 Unless it's already gotten -- unless the bear's
40 already gotten food, if they've already gotten food then they
41 don't work too well. But if it's a new bear to an area, I've
42 been amazed how well they've worked. And it's a good deal.
43 It's certainly better than killing the bear the first time it
44 comes by the camp, you know, it gives you an alternative.

45
46 MR. KATCHEAK: I have a question for Kate,
47 you mentioned earlier liberalizing -- possibly liberalizing a
48 bear hunt.

49
50 MS. PERSONS: In C perhaps. We already have

00095

1 liberalized it in the rest of the unit.

2

3 MR. KATCHEAK: In the rest of the unit?

4

5 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, uh-huh. And we'll see
6 what effect that.....

7

8 MR. KATCHEAK: When you liberalized the.....

9

10 MS. PERSONS:seems to have.

11

12 MR. KATCHEAK:hunt, how many bears a
13 year or how many are you talking?

14

15 MS. PERSONS: We don't know yet.

16

17 MR. KATCHEAK: One bear every four years or
18 one bear a year or.....

19

20 MS. PERSONS: Oh, what we did is we
21 lengthened the season so that the season now runs from the
22 1st of September until the end of May. And so when bears
23 come out in the spring time, like they're out now, and people
24 can go hunt them. And we believe that it will increase the
25 number of bears that are taken because people are going to
26 have longer to hunt.

27

28 And often, over the last few years -- well, not last
29 year, but the two years before that, the snow conditions got
30 really bum pretty early and it was hard for people to get out
31 and travel around and get bears and so not very many bears
32 were taken. And this way if bears, if it's an early spring
33 and bears come out early, then people can actually hunt them
34 as soon as they come out of their dens. And so we just don't
35 know how much of an effect this is going to have on the
36 harvest and we want to wait and see before we.....

37

38 MR. KATCHEAK: So that bear has to be in
39 business to get caught, I mean like.....

40

41 MS. PERSONS: Oh, for the.....

42

43 MR. KATCHEAK:destroying property.....

44

45 MS. PERSONS:one.....

46

47 MR. KATCHEAK:life and property.....

48

49 MS. PERSONS: No, for that -- the general
50 season hunt you have to have a tag though, a bear tag that

00096

1 cost \$25 and then you can kill one every four years -- no,
2 you can -- so it isn't a sow with cubs, you can keep the hide
3 and the skull, you just have to get them sealed. Or you can
4 subsistence hunt with a free permit, one bear every year but
5 you have to use the meat for food and the trophy value is
6 destroyed if you were to send it out of the unit.

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: With one you could have a
9 gun bear and the other one you don't carry your own gun.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anything further for Kate?

12

13 MR. SEETOT: You mentioned something about
14 the muskox out -- one of the comments that I was going to put
15 forth was when they do aerial surveys or after they do the
16 aerial surveys and try to determine the population, do they
17 take into account natural predation, natural mortality, stuff
18 like that if there's a decrease in a certain subunit? And if
19 they have any known disease that would be able to wipe out,
20 you know, the small band of animals in a certain group, you
21 know, like there was a big die off of caribou around Point
22 Hope a couple of years ago that made headlines.

23

24 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

25

26 MR. SEETOT: Are there known diseases, you
27 know, for the muskox?

28

29 MS. PERSONS: There certainly are.....

30

31 MR. SEETOT: Because if they're going to
32 overpopulate, you know, I would think that if they kind of
33 overpopulate, you know, that they would kind of control
34 themselves by.....

35

36 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

37

38 MR. SEETOT:certain sicknesses within
39 their main.....

40

41 MS. PERSONS: Right. Well, first of all
42 about predation and natural mortality, we really know very
43 little about it. And our census just gives us a total number
44 of animals and the location for distribution of the animals.
45 And we don't know anything about composition and we -- we
46 really don't know what the mortality or the productivity is,
47 and that's something that we would like to have the money and
48 time to investigate and hopefully now that this hunt is
49 becoming a bigger more important thing, maybe funding will
50 become available.

00097

1 And I'm not really familiar with muskox and diseases,
2 I have to admit. I'm sure that just as there are diseases
3 that effect all animals, I'm sure that muskox are subject to
4 them. They do often tend to live a really long time, though.
5 Their defenses seem to be pretty effective against predators.
6 And I've seen a number of them out in the country with their
7 horns just worn down, all -- some of them, just almost down
8 to stubs and cataracts in their eyes. And there was one at
9 the Bluestone River Bridge last summer that was arthritic, it
10 could really hardly walk around and how that guy made it
11 through the previous winter, I don't know.

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: Is that a muskox or a bear?

14
15 MS. PERSONS: A muskox. I'm sure he's not
16 still living today. But they tend to live a long time.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: With the coming of the
19 caribou and the caribou predators?

20
21 MS. PERSONS: Well, that defensive formation
22 that the muskox form, that's evolved as a defense against
23 wolves. And I understand that it is incredibly effective
24 against wolves, less so against bears. And I've been told
25 that certainly some bears can learn to exploit the weakness
26 in muskox and be pretty effective predators. But with
27 wolves, apparently they're pretty safe.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

30
31 MR. OLANNA: Thank you, Madame Chair. Last
32 summer we heard -- well, we heard about muskox being taken in
33 the Yukon, have they determined where those critters came
34 from?

35
36 MS. PERSONS: No.

37
38 MR. OLANNA: Are they from.....

39
40 MS. PERSONS: I don't know.

41
42 MR. OLANNA: I was curious to see if they
43 came from the Seward Peninsula?

44
45 MS. PERSONS: They could well have.

46
47 MS. DEGNAN: One muskox was seen at
48 Unalakleet this summer.

49
50 MS. PERSONS: That's what I hear, yeah.

00098

1 MR. OLANNA: I was just curious.

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, don't know.

4

5 MR. MENDENHALL: Could you do an article in
6 the paper regarding the bear situation?

7

8 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh, yeah.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: Because there's a big camp
11 coming up and everything so that the.....

12

13 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL:public would be able to
16 be aware of what is a subsistence bear and what is.....

17

18 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

19

20 MR. MENDENHALL:an in-season bear.

21

22 MS. PERSONS: That's a really good idea,
23 thank you.

24

25 MR. MENDENHALL: And what can be done, they
26 can get rubber bullets from you.

27

28 MS. PERSONS: You better start back-peddling
29 here.

30

31 (Off record comments)

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any further questions for
34 Kate or comments?

35

36 MR. MENDENHALL: I make a motion for a break.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. I want to thank you
39 very much for helping me the entire year, and I appreciate
40 your quick responses, you've really given me a lot of
41 information.

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: Could you also do one on
44 muskox, too, besides bear?

45

46 MS. PERSONS: On what to do with muskox?

47

48 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

49

50 MS. PERSONS: I mean what.....

00099

1 MR. MENDENHALL: The muskox hunt, how it is
2 progressing?

3
4 MS. PERSONS: Okay, boy, you're a slave
5 driver.

6 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, you're the one that
7 drew up the report.

8
9 MS. PERSONS: Okay.

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: It's good for the people
12 that are going to be out in the country, to know what they
13 can and can't shoot.

14
15 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh, okay.

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: And that they do have
18 seasons.

19
20 MS. PERSONS: Okay.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's been a request to
23 take a break, let's take another 10 minute break and open all
24 the windows and doors.

25
26 (Off record 2:29 p.m.)

27
28 (On record - 2:45 p.m.)

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Let's get back to the
31 meeting. It's now.....

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: A quarter 'til.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:a quarter 'til 3:00.
36 And we were, I believe, Kate is done. Charlie Lean. And
37 after Charlie Lean is Fred DeCicco. Charlie.

38
39 MR. LEAN: Thank you, Madame Chair. I moved
40 from the cold seat to the hot seat. I'm here to speak to you
41 about the fisheries for the region. I can't help myself but
42 talk a little bit about crab, so briefly, we're experiencing
43 a pretty good crab fishery out front and I wanted to gloat.
44 Two years ago we doubled the legal population, and last year
45 we doubled the legal population and this year it looks like
46 we're going to double the population. So things are going
47 well. And right now most of the crab are in the legal --
48 right on the boundary of legal size for the commercial
49 fishery, there's quite a few of them and catch rates are up a
50 little bit here at Nome and they're, as I understand it, the

00100

1 bulk of the population is still south of Rocky Point so the
2 White Mountain, Golovin Bay area should be about as good as
3 it gets in fishing, I think, for king crab.

4
5 I move on to salmon. The Department is involved with
6 several cooperative projects and one of those is a salmon
7 enhancement project in Salmon Lake. We're fertilizing Salmon
8 Lake, it's a three-way cooperative project, Fish and Game,
9 BLM, both taking a quarter of the cost and responsibility and
10 NSCDC, roughly half the cost. That project has been underway
11 for three years now. The intent of the project is to raise
12 the plankton in the lake at the proper time to promote
13 specific kind of zooplankton or small bugs that the salmon
14 will feed on. And as far as we can through the testing with
15 the plankton and so forth, the proper plankton has increased
16 in number and is apparently, we believe we have increased the
17 weight of the smelts that leave the lake on their way to rear
18 in the ocean. So with luck and a couple of years we'll see
19 an increased return in the adult salmon as those small salmon
20 or.....

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Reds or chums?

23
24 MR. LEAN: These are all red salmon I'm
25 talking about.

26
27 So we're also involved in several projects in the
28 Nome, immediately Nome area with chum salmon. Chum salmon
29 were -- we have incubator boxes on the Nome and Snake Rivers
30 that have been performing their job now for about six years.
31 We are seeing what we believe are increased returns due to
32 those boxes, particularly on the Snake River, where our chum
33 salmon escapement last year was considerably better than it
34 had been in previous years. Can't absolutely say that that's
35 the result of the incubation box but it was the -- it appears
36 that way.

37
38 The Nome River incubation box which should see a full
39 scale return this coming season so we're hoping that that,
40 too, will show a marked increase in abundance of chum. But
41 that -- we shall see on that.

42
43 We've had some failures in that program as well. The
44 Solomon River incubation box system never panned out for us.
45 We tried to raise chum salmon there with little success. The
46 main problems are trying to keep the box with water through
47 it and without flooding. The problem is if we put the box
48 far enough down to have a good gravity feed from the springs
49 then it gets flooded out in the spring breakup and we don't
50 realize any benefit so it's a -- essentially we've given up

00101

1 on that project and moved our efforts on to the Nome and
2 Snake Rivers to better increase our chances with the hope
3 that some success there will benefit subsistence users and
4 potentially other users and perhaps have some spill over into
5 the nearby streams.

6
7 I should briefly speak to the outlook for this coming
8 season. We're expecting sort of an average return on king
9 salmon. King salmon are generally six years old when they
10 return to Norton Sound as adults, but some are five year old.
11 The six year old escapement seem to be good. The five year
12 old escapement were poor. We're expecting a slightly above
13 average return this year but not a significantly above
14 average.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You're talking about the
17 entire 22?

18
19 MR. LEAN: Yes, the Norton Sound district
20 which is the Game Unit 22.

21
22 King salmon are found on the Seward Peninsula in the
23 Fish River system and east, so the Koniag River, Tubutulik
24 River, Inglutalik, Ungalik, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet and
25 Golsovia Rivers. They're also found, to some extent, on the
26 Pilgrim River and have been increasing there in recent years.

27
28 One place they used to occur in better numbers was
29 the Sinuk River just to the west of Nome here and virtually
30 all salmon runs on the Sinuk River are very depleted at this
31 time. We haven't seen any real optimistic things there in a
32 number of years.

33
34 Pink salmon are, we're expecting a typical odd year
35 return which is a low return. Silver salmon or coho salmon,
36 again, we're expecting a somewhat above average, particularly
37 on the Seward Peninsula itself, Unalakleet, Shaktoolik areas,
38 we're thinking more average in returns this year. And that
39 has to do with the parent year four years ago when we had
40 better runs on the Seward Peninsula than we had in say in the
41 Unalakleet area.

42
43 Chum salmon, as I just stated, we don't anticipate
44 very strong returns in chum salmon. The chums are down
45 throughout the Bering Sea. Fall chums on the Yukon were
46 probably the most depleted last year but certainly the Nome
47 subdistrict didn't follow far behind on that one.

48
49 Along those lines, I've spent a lot of this winter in
50 meetings here in Nome, Subsistence Working Group, the Alaska

00102

1 Board of Fisheries is considering instituting Tier II fishing
2 rules here in Nome. This would be the first Tier II fishery
3 in the state. To put that in different terms, the Tier II is
4 a situation where there is some harvestable surplus but not
5 enough to satisfy all subsistence use. So the State
6 regulations and statutes, both state that those most
7 dependent and those showing the longest term use of the
8 resource should have first priority of use on a limited
9 resource like that. So in the extreme case, the Board of
10 Fisheries could institute Tier II on chum salmon and odd year
11 pink salmon in Norton Sound. The working group has requested
12 of the Board that they focus on chum salmon. The Board does
13 seem inclined that way but by no means is required to do
14 that. They could consider pinks, too.

15
16 We have been -- the group has voted with a strong
17 majority against instituting Tier II. The Board may override
18 the wishes of the working group and institute that. With
19 that realization, the working group has been trying to better
20 to find out they would institute Tier II if it does come to
21 pass. We're still from distance from having that plan worked
22 out completely but I think we have made progress and we've
23 received positive feedback from the Board of Fish and from
24 staff at headquarters. So this will all be considered in a
25 meeting beginning March 30 and finishing April 2 here in
26 Nome. Madame Chair, Perry Mendenhall and others have been
27 involved in this process and it's tiring. We all have grown
28 to dread the meetings but we think it's important.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: Anybody want to take our
31 place?

32
33 MR. LEAN: Yeah.

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: We're wearing out.

36
37 MR. LEAN: Yeah. So I don't know what more
38 to say there. That's certainly the biggest thing in my job
39 at this time.

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: Our problem there on the
42 Tier II is sport fishermen and the tourism fishery industry.
43 Not too much commercial or subsistence interference, but
44 mostly those two groups. And I just want you to be aware of
45 that because -- in case your rivers are involved there'll be
46 sport fishermen and there will be tourism groups coming in
47 defense of saying it's their fish, too.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And the newspapers have
50 been pretty accurate in their reporting on the group's

00103

1 meetings.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: But there are some
4 friendlies in there, too, people -- some of them, not all of
5 them.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's something that the
8 whole region should be closely watching because in the event
9 that the salmon fish starts to.....

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: Crash.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:crash, whatever, the
14 group be known that it's probably going to be just pushed
15 over to the rest of the region.

16

17 MR. MENDENHALL: We requested.....

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we've been trying to be
20 very careful in what we do as we make decisions. We not only
21 are thinking about ourselves in Nome but on how it's going to
22 impact the rest
23 of the region, entire 22, or further on.

24

25 Perry.

26

27 MR. MENDENHALL: It's more of an uphill
28 battle than an easier battle. But I think if you're outside
29 of Nome you would probably have it easier. But Nome is
30 urbanized and got mixed breeding stock.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The thing about it though
33 is I think it's going to set guidelines and it's something
34 that you should watch very closely.

35

36 MR. MENDENHALL: And the use of customary and
37 traditional terms needs to be emphasized as well.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Charlie.

40

41 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair, I would -- there is
42 right now, to outlying areas from Nome is not so much the
43 institution of Tier II, but the disbursement of effort that's
44 fishing here in Nome people will be displaced. And if the
45 Tier II rules go into effect there will be less opportunity
46 for fishing in Nome and it's likely that those people will
47 want to go fish somewhere else so Port Clarence or Fish River
48 are the most likely areas for people to spread over to, but
49 also Unalakleet, anywhere there's air traffic -- or easy air
50 transportation to.

00104

1 Also the Board is looking at this as a trial and
2 they've made comments to me that on the Alaska Peninsula,
3 Perryville is a likely candidate for Tier II rules as well.
4 So if this happens we'll be the test case and there probably
5 will be refinements that go on over the next couple of years
6 and then you may see this idea being instituted elsewhere in
7 the state.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I have a question that
10 maybe the -- I know that Nome area doesn't have any Federal
11 lands so it would have no impact on us. Now, for -- let's
12 just pretend that 22(A), there was not enough fish and the
13 State went into Tier II system, when the Unalakleet Scenic
14 River, how would the Feds be able to handle that if the State
15 -- if 22(A) went Tier II?

16
17 MS. DEWHURST: I don't think the Unalakleet
18 River's part of the.....

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No, no, I'm just using it
21 -- this is a hypothetical.

22
23 MS. DEWHURST: I don't think we have any
24 juris.....

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, we do.

27
28 MS. DEWHURST: We do? There is?

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: If the State -- because
31 the State land is not very much in the Unalakleet area,
32 there's a lot of BLM land.

33
34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Part of.....

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So how would the State --
37 I mean how would the Federal government respond to that? I
38 know it's subsistence priority but how would -- Jeff.

39
40 MR. DENTON: There is several things we would
41 have to take a hard look at, see where the subsistence
42 activities occur on Federal lands, how much of it is on
43 Federal waters, how much -- see the State water is below the
44 Wild and Scenic River boundaries, so that would be where the
45 Tier II would apply. On the Federal waters above that point
46 depending on what the amount of subsistence dependence is and
47 so on up there, we would have to, you know, take a look at
48 evaluate the resources and if it becomes a limited fishery or
49 whatever, we would probably go through the recommendation
50 process and so on and change the regulations, if necessary.

00105

1 We'd probably be working pretty heavily with the State.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Charlie.

4

5 MR. LEAN: Yes, and I'm sure we would be
6 working closely. One of the questions with the State staff
7 is, I believe there was some consideration of former, I
8 guess, still IRA land withdrawals near the mouths of the
9 Unalakleet and Shaktoolik Rivers or the Maritime Refuge
10 holdings. In fact, there is a Maritime Refuge holding here
11 in the Nome subdistrict. Well, it's the island from Safety
12 Bridge to Solomon Bridge, which is actually about a quarter
13 of the subdistrict. So I'm not clear on how the Federal
14 interest would relate on that.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ida.

17

18 MS. HILDEBRAND: If it went to Federal
19 management, you'd use the proposal methods like you do with
20 game right now. There will be a proposal cycle. There will
21 be also special actions. And part of -- on the Fisheries
22 Management Update, I'm sure they'll go into part of that as
23 the procedures that will be followed and that they couldn't
24 be effective until 2000, and there will be a proposal period
25 before that time.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The reason why I ask this
28 is because it kind of looks pretty bleak, at least, from this
29 region and it's probably -- hopefully it won't expand in
30 terms of salmon shortage.

31

32 MS. HILDEBRAND: In the Proposed Rule there
33 is a recommendation for working closely with the State and to
34 authorize field managers to open and close but it won't be
35 just done at a drop of the hat.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ida. Any
38 questions for Charlie or comments?

39

40 MR. SEETOT: You mentioned something about
41 king crab. I know that they get red king crab here and then
42 we have fished for king crab and it seems to be the blue king
43 crab stock. Where do the boundaries of the red king crab
44 limits are?

45

46 MR. LEAN: It's somewhere close to you. When
47 we've had commercial fisheries we've -- as we turn the corner
48 at Cape Rodney just beyond the Sinuk River going north
49 towards Port Clarence we begin to pick up quite a few blue
50 king crab. Our test fishery that we've operated a few years

00106

1 ago at King Island was all blue king crab. So it's somewhere
2 just south of Port Clarence is where the 50/50 line would be.
3 They do have intermeshing range in this area, that's not
4 uncommon. Basically blue king crab tend to inhabit a rocky
5 cobble bottom and red king crag tend to inhabit a more
6 gravely sandy, actually into mud a little bit bottom.
7 There's other differences in the two crab, blue crab mate
8 every other year, red king crab mate every year. But the
9 line is somewhere right close to your area.

10
11 MR. ENINGOWUK: You were talking about those
12 incubation boxes, how long ago did you start those and how, I
13 guess, after five years you'll really know if they came back?
14

15 MR. LEAN: Yeah, as far as chum salmon go,
16 chums come back at four and five years of age. We started
17 about six years ago on the Hobson Creek on the Nome River
18 about Mile 19, and we started five years ago on Boulder Creek
19 on the Snake River and the Solomon River as well. So we're
20 just now getting some results back. The Nome River, the
21 first couple of attempts there we had problems. We had an
22 ice dam form and crush our box one year and had some problems
23 that caused us not to be very successful in the first two
24 years, but now we should be seeing some good.....
25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: They've become experts. It
27 was a joint project between other organizations and companies
28 in Nome.
29

30 MR. LEAN: Yeah.
31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: What agencies do you
33 think.....
34

35 MR. LEAN: We've had excellent support from
36 many of the land owners, Sitnasuak being the primary land
37 owner of the Nome and the Snake areas. Solomon Corporation
38 at Solomon.
39

40 MR. MENDENHALL: Nome Eskimo Corp.
41

42 MR. LEAN: Uh-huh.
43

44 MR. MENDENHALL: Fisheries, Norton Sound
45 Economic and Development Corporation.
46

47 MR. LEAN: Yes.
48

49 MR. MENDENHALL: BLM.
50

00107

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Charlie, in terms of, you
2 do Unalakleet salmon counts, right, similar to Nome? Were
3 there any results that are available now or is it something
4 that will come later or.....

5
6 MR. LEAN: We have -- we're in a joint
7 process with Kawerak, we have aerial surveys that Fish and
8 Game flew, statistical tables on that, they're in a notebook
9 over an inch thick. We also have annual reports from the
10 test net project at Unalakleet and the North River counting
11 tower at Unalakleet. So we have several different reports
12 that we turn out every year on Unalakleet in particular.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So last summer.....

15
16 MR. LEAN: Uh-huh.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:are those available
19 or not yet?

20
21 MR. LEAN: The aerial survey data is ready.
22 The North River Tower is ready. I'm not sure if the test net
23 report is done yet but we have that information, maybe not in
24 a final form but we have that information.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: At our next fall meeting
27 would you be able to bring us that information?

28
29 MR. LEAN: I could bring -- I'm not sure when
30 the date is but I could bring you this years, 1998 reports
31 for sure and probably could bring the preliminary reports,
32 1999 reports in a preliminary form.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Anymore
35 questions for Charlie or comments?

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: It needs to be stated that
38 the argument for changing regulation was there was no
39 baseline data on chums or fish. Now that we've established
40 five or six year studies on it it gives a baseline for making
41 change of regulations. And that's important, like they're
42 doing elsewhere in the region so that there is data to backup
43 decision-making at Jake's level and also at the Fish Board
44 level.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Charlie, one more question
47 on the Board of Fish that is tentatively scheduled for the
48 end of this month, is that going to be broadcasted to the
49 radio or not?

50

00108

1 MR. LEAN: That's a decision by the radio.
2 Last year they did. I hope that I can talk them into it
3 again.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Because that's when
6 they'll be discussing the Tier II, the proposal will be
7 submitted, for those of you who can listen in. If you who
8 can listen in, it'd be nice if you listen in.

9
10 Anything further? Thank you, Charlie. Fred, I'm not
11 going to tackle your last name.

12
13 MR. DeCICCO: Madame Chairman, Council. Fred
14 DeCicco, I'm the sport fish biologist. I work for the Sport
15 Fish Division of Fish and Game. My area is basically the
16 same as Charlie's and we're responsible for managing the
17 sport fisheries and I do research as well. Mainly on the
18 resident species like grayling and trout. But we've also
19 done some work on salmon. And what I'd like to do is just
20 give you a little bit of summary of the kind of things we've
21 done over the last few years in the area.

22
23 First, it appears that the amount of sport fishing
24 effort in Norton Sound is decreasing slightly from a high
25 around 1990/91. The latest data that we have is a year old,
26 1997, but it's decreased. The highest estimates and these
27 are in angler days, like one person with a fishing rod
28 fishing for either a whole day or part of a day, and that's
29 based on a coastal survey that's done. The sample is drawn
30 from all people that by sport fishing licenses and fish. It
31 was around 23,500 angler days and this was for the -- all of
32 the Norton Sound drainages. In 1990 and '91 and it's
33 declined to about 15,500 angler days, it's the latest
34 estimate. The one exception is the Unalakleet River and
35 there, it appears the sport fishing effort is increasing over
36 the last few years. So that's a general idea of what is
37 going on with our data on effort.

38
39 One of our recent projects was on the Unalakleet
40 River working with king salmon. And we radio-tagged king
41 salmon in the lower part of the river and then tracked them
42 to either the North River where the tower is or the remainder
43 of the drainage in order to estimate the proportion or the
44 fraction of the run that goes up the North River. So that we
45 could, with the information gained from the tower so we could
46 expand the tower count to include the whole drainage. And we
47 did this for two years and we tagged about 150 king salmon
48 with radio transmitters each year during 1997 and 1998.
49 During those two years, the king salmon runs were quite
50 different. It was stronger in '97, it also started earlier.

00109

1 In '98 it started a little later, it was a little bit weaker
2 and it was more protracted over time. So the runs were quite
3 different. But the proportion, going up the North River was
4 almost identical both years. In '97 it was 37.2 percent and
5 then in 1998 it was 40 percent. So it's averaged about 39
6 percent go up the North River. So we feel that we can
7 probably use this data or Charlie can use it more than we can
8 to estimate the run size in the entire Unalakleet Drainage
9 based on the North River tower counts.

10
11 It's likely that at some time in the future, maybe
12 after three or four years we'll repeat this to see if we're
13 still in the same ball park, but it's an expensive project.
14 At the outset we said, well, if the proportions come out to
15 be really close in the first two years but if there was a
16 wide range then we would try to get a third year and get an
17 average. So at this point we're fairly confident that based
18 on this information that it looks like 39 -- probably between
19 35 and 45 percent go up the North River.

20
21 Another thing that I've been involved in on an
22 ongoing basis since about 1990 has been assessment of Arctic
23 grayling stocks in the rivers. During the -- up through all
24 of the '90s, through '97, we were collecting background
25 information doing population abundance estimates in the
26 individual rivers. The grayling don't move from river to
27 river, they don't go from the Nome River to the Snake River,
28 for example, the populations are separate. And we did
29 abundance estimates as baseline data.

30
31 Now, we're at the point where we're going back on a
32 rotational basis to see if the populations are maintaining,
33 going up or going down. And we've changed the structure of
34 some of the regulations based on what we've found over the
35 years. In 1997 -- well, in 1998, for example, we went into
36 the Niukluk River and worked on the reach upstream from
37 Council to the Casadepega River, it's the same area that we
38 did an abundance estimate during 1991. And based on the
39 information that we got from people that go over there and
40 fish and people that spend the summer in Council they said
41 there were more grayling around, it was more like it used to
42 be in the '70s when they first started coming up here to
43 spend some time up there. We didn't do assessments of the
44 population, but I remember that there were -- you know,
45 seemed to be good healthy grayling populations and then it
46 seemed to take a decline. So I was really interested to see
47 what it was like and we estimated that there was about twice
48 as many grayling in that reach of the river last year than
49 there were in 1991. So it sound -- it -- our data support
50 local people's observations that the grayling population has

00110

1 rebounded. And it's likely that part of that is a result of
2 regulation changes that went in back in the '80s when the bag
3 limit went from 15 down to five with only one over 15 inches.

4
5 The grayling populations around here live -- compared
6 to Interior Alaska around Fairbanks, where the Department has
7 done grayling studies for many, many years, the grayling in
8 this area, they live a long time. They live to be over 20
9 years old. They grow very rapidly for the first six or seven
10 years. They're able to take advantage of all the energy that
11 comes in, mainly in the form of pink salmon, spawn and fry
12 and carcasses, and the productivity that brings to the spring
13 and they grow really fast and they get up to be 16 or 17
14 inches in about seven years, and then they start to spawn.
15 In the Fairbanks area, grayling start to spawn when they're
16 about 10 or 11 inches along, here they don't start to spawn
17 until they're 16 or 17 inches. After they become sexually
18 mature their growth rate almost stops. They just grow
19 probably, on the average, less than a quarter of an inch a
20 year but they live for another 15 years. So ultimately they
21 get to be a real good size.

22
23 In the Nome River, we did work there in 1991 and
24 1992, again in 1997. These are abundance estimates. In
25 1992, we had a pretty good idea that the grayling population
26 was depressed and they're a low level in the Nome River. We
27 estimated that there were about 700 grayling period in the
28 Nome River. And we closed it to sport fishing by emergency
29 order and it remained closed through 1997 and we went in and
30 again did an abundance estimate and we found that the
31 population hadn't changed with five years of sport fishing
32 closure. The one thing that did happen was that the fish
33 that were there grew bigger. And another interesting thing
34 about most of these rivers, not all of them, but most of the
35 smaller rivers, like the Nome River and the Sinuk, to some
36 degree the Pilgrim, to a lesser degree the Snake, is that
37 there are almost no small grayling in the population. You
38 just don't see little grayling. I'm not certain why but I
39 think it's a lack of rearing areas or the fact that when the
40 small grayling are hatched in the spring time, those grayling
41 spawn in the spring and only after a few weeks the little
42 grayling emerge and they drift with the current. I think the
43 short rapid streams, like the Nome River, that most of these
44 young of the year grayling are basically get washed down into
45 the lagoon and either get eaten or get -- or just die from
46 not being able to tolerate the saltwater. We don't know but
47 for whatever reason there are very, very few small grayling
48 in the system. And on the Nome River, we began last year on
49 an experimental basis to see if we could enhance the small
50 grayling contribution to the population and we seined up

00111

1 young of the year fish that are only about less than an inch
2 long, just a little less than an inch long and put about 700
3 of them -- well, 670 of them into one of the arms of the
4 gravel pit out at Danner Creek in the hopes that we can get
5 them to survive the first winter. Now, this spring we'll go
6 back there and try to trap those fish out and move them over
7 to the Nome River. Hopefully they will have grown to a
8 little bit bigger size and survived. If we get decent
9 survival and we're not sure what to expect because we haven't
10 done anything like this ever before, but if we get 20 percent
11 survival or better, then we'll go in this year and catch a
12 larger number and do the same thing, maybe on the order of
13 five or 6,000 and see if by doing that for for a couple of
14 years, if we can get a group of small fish started in the
15 river and once they take hold and if they live for a couple
16 of years I think that we'll see that they'll recruit into the
17 spawning population after a few years and be able to carry
18 the population for sometime into the future. The jury's
19 still out but we'll start assessing that this year. If we
20 get decent survival we'll try it. And probably do that for
21 two years and then go back in at they're at-large for maybe a
22 three year period. And when we move them to the Nome River
23 we're going to clip the radiopill fins so they'll have -- the
24 little fin on their back right in front of their tail, so
25 that we'll have -- each one will be marked and then when we
26 do another population assessment we'll be able to determine
27 if we're having a contribution to the population or not. And
28 that's where that project is sitting right now.

29
30 Another thing that we've done in the area and I just
31 wanted to let you know about, in 1997, I traveled over to
32 Chekotka and worked with some Russian biologists and we
33 tagged some dolly varden over there, some trout. In the past
34 we had had several tagged trout from the Nome area get caught
35 over in Chekotka and several -- we've had four, I think that
36 we tagged up here in Kotzebue, near Kivalina get caught over
37 in Russia, some right across here at north of Probadinia in
38 the Mariech River and then some in the Anadeia River. So
39 I've been working with Russian biologists and we got them
40 some tags and then I went over and helped them tag fish and
41 we tagged about 950 fish in 1997 in two different rivers. So
42 there's some chance that some trout with red tags written in
43 Russian will show up over here. And I guess if any of them
44 do I'd sure like to hear about it.

45
46 And I'll stop there. I've got some.....

47
48 MR. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, just for your
49 information.

50

00112

1 MR. DeCICCO: Yes.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: On the Barrow Council
4 meeting, I believe they did say they had some Russian tags.

5

6 MR. DeCICCO: Oh, really.

7

8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That was in whales.

9

10 MS. HILDEBRAND: That was in whales.

11

12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That was in whales.

13

14 MR. DeCICCO: In Wales. Oh, in whales?

15

16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.....

17

18 MR. DeCICCO: Whale tags, not in Wales?

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

21

22 MR. DeCICCO: Okay.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No wonder Toby looked
25 like, what?

26

27 MR. DeCICCO: I have some.....

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Toby, you mean that little
30 trout didn't come speak to you in Russian?

31

32 MR. DeCICCO: I've got some written summaries
33 here on things that I can hand out, but if anyone has any
34 questions I'd be happy to try to answer them.

35

36 MS. DEGNAN: What's the largest that the
37 grayling grow to?

38

39 MR. DeCICCO: The largest grayling that we've
40 seen in this area have been, in total length, about 23 inches
41 long and a little bit over four pounds. I think that it's
42 not likely that they get a whole lot bigger than that. But
43 they may because they do live for a long, long time.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Grayling, is that the kind
46 of fish that always goes back to the same place, they just
47 wander off in different.....

48

49 MR. DeCICCO: Well, from what we've found
50 from working in consecutive years in streams where we mark

00113

1 fish is that the grayling seem to -- first of all they don't
2 leave the river system that they're in. They don't go from
3 river to river when they have to go to the ocean in between.
4 But they -- once they're in the spawning population and
5 fairly big size, when they're small we don't know, we think
6 that the small fish, generally rear in the lower parts of the
7 rivers where the water's a little bit slower. But once they
8 get bigger and begin to spawn, they spawn in the spring time
9 so there's a movement from an over wintering area which we
10 haven't identified in most of the rivers to a place to spawn
11 and then they go to a feeding area where they reside for most
12 of the summer depending on what happens in the river. If,
13 for example, there's a big pink salmon run that year they
14 might move with some of the pink salmon to feed on the eggs
15 but we have caught fish, for example, in -- I remember one
16 pool in the Sinuk River three years in a row we caught the
17 same fish, same tag number so it seems like there's a
18 tendency for them to go back to the same summer feeding area
19 unless there are kind of extenuating circumstances where it's
20 really to their advantage to follow a big bunch of pink
21 salmon.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: They got deep pools on the
24 Sinuk, too.

25
26 MR. DeCICCO: Yeah, they.....

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: Deep pools.

29
30 MR. DeCICCO:really they're in a lot of
31 different kinds of habitat, but there are definitely
32 concentrations in pools.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: Because I've caught them
35 with my rod -- bigger than -- almost like a salmon.

36
37 MR. DeCICCO: Yeah, one thing, this part of
38 Alaska seems to have some of the largest grayling in the
39 state, here and in Bristol Bay. One difference is that here
40 they are much older than they are in Bristol Bay.

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: They don't taste so good.

43
44 MR. DeCICCO: Yeah, I don't like to eat them
45 either.

46
47 MR. KATCHEAK: I have a question for you
48 Fred.

49
50 MR. DeCICCO: Yeah.

00114

1 MR. KATCHEAK: You mentioned earlier you did
2 a study on all the river drainages; did I hear that.....

3
4 MR. DeCICCO: Not on all the river drainages,
5 no.

6
7 MR. KATCHEAK: Oh, okay.

8
9 MR. DeCICCO: We've only done some. I wish I
10 could say that we've done studies on all of them but, you
11 know, did you have questions about any one particular? I can
12 tell you if we've worked there or not.

13
14 MR. KATCHEAK: We have several rivers down in
15 south of Stebbins and St. Michael and they did some studies
16 over the years, State Fish and Game, but I don't recall
17 seeing any graylings in that area in those rivers. So I
18 thought you might have that from Stebbins.

19
20 MR. DeCICCO: No, we haven't -- in fact, we
21 haven't done any work at all down in that -- that far down in
22 Norton Sound. Unalakleet's the farthest down where we've
23 done any work. I'd like to get a little farther down and
24 have a look at some of the other drainages sometime but I
25 don't know if that's going to happen.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Charlie.

28
29 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean with Fish and Game.
30 I was doing a recon of the Pikmiktalik River and I think it
31 was 1982 and I have a picture of myself with a grayling, so
32 there are at least -- there was at least one. We did not eat
33 him, we put him back. But I do believe there are grayling up
34 in the Pikmiktalik and the Pastolik Drainages.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I have a question for
37 either one of you to answer, with the State money crunch
38 right now, is that going to effect your management of the
39 entire Unit 22, and if so, where do you see the cuts being
40 made?

41
42 MR. DeCICCO: Well, from my division's
43 standpoint, it's likely that our regional budget is going to
44 get decreased, that's the way it looks. Right now for the
45 upcoming year, at least, however, be able to work in a
46 similar fashion than I've done before. It doesn't look like
47 I'll get cut back in this area. And out here, from the Sport
48 Fish Division, I mean it's me and I have two seasonal people
49 that work for about a month and a half each and that's it.
50 It isn't like we have lots of projects going on.

00115

1 We did have the Unalakleet projects, that was a
2 project budget that funded for a two year period. We've also
3 had a project up in the Kobuk River working on sheefish
4 estimation and abundance for a three year period. But those
5 projects have accomplished their objectives and the funding
6 has been rerouted somewhere else.

7
8 MR. MENDENHALL: So they got paid for
9 fishing?

10
11 MR. DeCICCO: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Charlie.....

14
15 MR. DeCICCO: You want to sign up?

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:how about the
18 Subsistence Division?

19
20 MR. LEAN: I guess I should let Susan
21 Georgette speak to Subsistence Division. We have seen some
22 cutbacks last year and Commercial Fisheries budget is highly
23 dependent on the general fund, much more so than Sport
24 Fisheries or Wildlife Division. So we strongly -- there's a
25 strong possibility that the Shaktoolik counting tower will be
26 discontinued due to funding cuts. It's not a done deal yet
27 and I'm still waiting to find out.

28
29 And we may have to trim other projects lengths, to
30 some extent, I don't know. Our contribution to the
31 Subsistence budget is for the fall subsistence surveys and I
32 don't anticipate that funding being cut. Otherwise on
33 Subsistence Division, I don't know if you should.....

34
35 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette with
36 Subsistence Division. And most of our projects, these
37 usually are funded by the Federal agencies, Park Service, we
38 work with Ken a lot, we work with Fish and Wildlife Service a
39 lot and then with Charlie, and then we're doing a project
40 this year with Kate with the Wildlife Division. And I guess
41 we just don't know year to year, it just depends on what
42 projects come up. And right now our region and our division
43 gets very little State money for general work, it's real
44 project work from other agencies. And it just depends on
45 what projects might come up next year. So we don't really
46 know until the end of the fiscal year, I guess, what next
47 year looks like.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any further
50 questions for the two gentlemen or Susan? Thanks.

00116

1 MR. DeCICCO: I'll pass these around if you'd
2 like them.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sure. On the annual
5 report, I'd like Cliff Edenshaw to address that. And maybe
6 because we have some new people, you can give a short
7 explanation as to why an annual report comes back, very
8 brief.

9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
11 That's under Tab U. So if the Council members would go to
12 Tab U. At the last meeting you had up here in Nome, the
13 Council, as you look on the other -- the flip side of this,
14 there are one, two, three, four, five, there are five issues
15 there that I dug out of the transcripts and also Grace had
16 sent me a memo requesting this was -- or is in an annual
17 report and I gave her a copy of the last one that was
18 submitted by the Council which was in 1997, or excuse me,
19 1996, we didn't -- the Council didn't do one last year. And
20 for Toby, and some of the others, a portion of this in Title
21 VIII, if you look inside the training manual under the
22 statute, that authority has been delegated from the Secretary
23 of Interior to the Federal Subsistence Board. So in the
24 past, and likely when this annual report is finalized by the
25 Council it will be submitted through the proper procedures,
26 the Staff Committee will review those and the Board will meet
27 likely in June or July just as they do -- I think maybe
28 Taylor can clarify that for me, but in the past we've
29 addressed -- or the Board has addressed the annual reports
30 along with the nominations packet prior to it being forwarded
31 to Washington. So the annual report will likely be addressed
32 in June or July.

33
34 And if you look on the flip side on Page 2, some of
35 the issues that were stated in here were submitted or -- Fran
36 and Perry had both stated at the last meeting here in Nome,
37 so some of those issues are in there. And also we were going
38 to go through from -- who was that, Peter, Peter wanted the
39 per diem, that is also included in the annual report.

40
41 And so for the Regional Council, when the meeting's
42 convened, you know, after you've had your discussion, then
43 what I'm going to do is, you know, I'll go back to Anchorage
44 and -- with all of you -- I know with Perry, Grace -- I've
45 been able to get all the information I need to all of you so
46 what I would do is, you know, once the Council has determined
47 what they -- what they want included in this annual report,
48 I'll draft that up and fax and forward it to all of you for
49 your review.

50

00117

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Cliff, what I wanted to do
2 is go ahead and look at this here, but what I wanted to do
3 was to get input from the Council but I wanted them to be
4 able to see the transcript of our last meeting, and they can
5 review it and see if there's anything else that needed to be
6 submitted in the annual report. I do have some addendums and
7 I figured we could do it on a kind of a limited time period
8 because the Board meets in May, doesn't it, so we need to be
9 submitting this report by what date?

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: Grace. I would like to make
12 a motion to accept the annual report.....

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Can I.....

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL:as drafted, but to --
17 and then with the stipulation that the Council would review
18 it and be able to add to it between now and.....

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Can you make it after I
21 get some information?

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, okay.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The reason why I want to
26 do this is to give, on a limited basis, for the other Council
27 members to review what had happened in our last meeting. And
28 if you so desire you can submit to Cliff what you want to be
29 added to the annual report and he can fax us a draft of it
30 and we can look at it and quickly approve it or you can
31 write, okay, or something like that and send it back to him.
32 I think it is important that the report comes from the entire
33 Council. So if you wish to add something, I appreciate if
34 you would do that. And I figure maybe income tax deadline is
35 a good deadline for us, April 15th, that we submit our
36 reports or whatever, addendums, to Cliff by then, in addition
37 to this one.

38
39 If you so desire, if you don't want to that's fine,
40 but whatever Cliff can get from you he can incorporate it in
41 it. I have a few items I'd like to add but not very, not
42 lots. So is that -- would that be okay with the Council?

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, in that case I would
45 like to make a motion to that effect to make it legal because
46 we've discussed it -- so since we already discussing it --
47 but I wanted to make that motion with the stipulation that
48 the Council members can add to it between now and April 15th
49 so that we be able to make the May meeting of the Federal
50 Subsistence Board. So at this point -- time, accept the

00118

1 present report as is, but can be added to, and that way it
2 will meet the deadline. That's my motion.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, there's a motion.

5
6 MR. KATCHEAK: Second.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Second by Ted.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: The whole thing.....

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Discussion.

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL:is just to help
15 expedite it, you know, to accept the annual report as is, and
16 then with additions, addendums can be made by the Council
17 members.

18
19 MR. EDENSHAW: Madame Chair, in regards to
20 the Board meeting in May, the annual report won't be
21 addressed at that meeting, the Board meets to discuss --
22 address proposals.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No, but I'm saying
25 that.....

26
27 MR. EDENSHAW: And the annual report.....

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:what we.....

30
31 MR. EDENSHAW:will be addressed in June
32 or July.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But we need to submit it
35 by what date? The appropriate question is, when does it need
36 to -- when do we need to send in the annual report?

37
38 MR. EDENSHAW: That's a good date.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: That is.....

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: The whole point is when
43 subsistence come around here we won't be around the phone in
44 the summer, between now and October maybe.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So the deadline for
47 submitting our annual report is what date?

48
49 MR. BRELSFORD: Madame Chair, normally, and
50 I'm actually looking back at the procedures manual that we

00119

1 went through for training yesterday, is has a schedule on
2 Page 22, and it says that the Chairs sign their annual
3 reports at the winter meetings, that's the normal procedure
4 in March. In this instance, your suggestion of allowing a
5 little more time for Council input through April 15th is
6 perfectly fine. I think that's a good deadline for your
7 Council to set, kind of in self-management, that leaves us
8 plenty of time for Cliff to finalize it, include it in the
9 package that the Board will review and deliberate later in
10 the summer. And in this schedule, the Board meeting, the
11 replies to annual reports are scheduled for a Board meeting
12 in July.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, thank you, Taylor.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: I call for the question to
17 the motion.

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD: Was there a second, Tina?

20
21 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes, there was a second.

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, Ted seconded.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ted Katcheak seconded.
28 Call for the question?

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: I did, that's what I mean.
31 I made the question already.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, gee, I'm tired. All
34 those in favor of.....

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: The motion.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:Mr. Mendenhall's
39 motion signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
44 sign.

45
46 (No opposing responses)

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Passed unanimously again.

49
50 MR. BRELSFORD: Madame Chair.....

00120

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Taylor.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD:I'm sorry to interrupt.

4 I think there was a concern raised by one of the Council
5 members this morning that was to be included in the annual
6 report.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: About per diem.

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD: It had to do with Board
11 structure. I believe the per diem is actually already there
12 but the structure of the Federal Subsistence Board was also
13 raised. And.....

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: Also the BLM 10 month report
16 question. That was a question, the BLM report. Where is it?

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You want to add.....

19

20 MR. MENDENHALL: I know, to be put in there
21 that we question where is the BLM report. We've been asking
22 -- that was supposed to have been there 10 months ago.

23

24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, you want to add that
25 in?

26

27 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You were talking about the
30 structure of the Federal Subsistence Board?

31

32 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. That was raised this
33 morning either from, I can't remember which member raised it,
34 but I thought it was intended to be question to be put into
35 the annual report again. And what I was going to suggest is
36 that the members talk with Cliff and submit their
37 language.....

38

39 MR. MENDENHALL: Subsistence user to be on
40 the Board.

41

42 MR. BRELSFORD:by April 15th.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Regarding a subsistence
45 user being on the.....

46

47 MR. BRELSFORD: Being on the Federal
48 Board.....

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:Board.

00121

1 MR. BRELSFORD:correct.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And I guess in terms of
4 that item, the one that we had a question on, in terms of
5 compacting.....

6

7 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah. Because.....

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:because we're not
10 sure -- in talking to Cliff we weren't sure exactly if we
11 should talk about it right -- during the annual report or put
12 it under No. 9.

13

14 MS. DEGNAN: Well, reading our roles and
15 responsibilities of the Regional Advisory Council, it says,
16 prepare and submit to the Board an annual report containing
17 the following, and then it lists four items. And it says, a
18 recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife
19 populations within the region to accommodate subsistence uses
20 and then the next one; policies, standards, guidelines. I
21 think this is where the concern I had would fall into.

22

23 So I would raise it here as an addendum to the annual
24 report and that would be to compact with the local tribal
25 entities pertaining to the management of the subsistence
26 resources on the Federal public lands.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So that was the one that
29 we had a question as to where we should put it, so annual
30 report would be one of the appropriate places to put it.
31 Okay, so at this time, Fran is more familiar and you can
32 discuss it at this time.

33

34 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, because we have tribal
35 entities within the region, we have Kawerak as a tribal
36 organization that's authorized to -- based on the written
37 authority of the local tribes to do compacting. And then
38 each of the local tribes have the ability to compact for
39 Federal programs on the government-to-government basis. And
40 I would like to raise this as an issue for the annual report
41 that -- to allow the local management for the subsistence
42 resources for both fish and wildlife resources. And that's
43 -- I believe that the local tribal entities and/or the
44 regional organization have the ability to act in that
45 capacity now.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any comments? Ida.

48

49 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, Staff
50 Committee, BIA. There are many ways you can address that

00122

1 issue. And I agree with you, if this Council feels strongly
2 about compacting or contracting by local tribes or regional
3 entities regarding the management of fish and game, they
4 should put it, not only in their annual report, they should
5 draft a letter to the Director of the Office of Subsistence
6 Management and direct your Chair to bring this up in the
7 Chair/Board meeting. There's a meeting between the Federal
8 Subsistence Board and the Regional Council Chairs in May
9 prior to the Board meeting, which would also be an excellent
10 time to bring that up. So there are several ways you can do
11 it and you can do all of them or any one of them.

12
13 As far as compacting, that's already being discussed
14 or contracting, excuse me, is already being discussed as part
15 of the preparations for what happens if there is, indeed,
16 Federal management of fish, if the State doesn't act to
17 resume control. But to emphasize your interest or your need
18 in this region, I would recommend that you do, any or all of
19 the above.

20
21 MS. DEGNAN: I would request that we do that.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: I have a concern.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes, Perry.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: I know a court hasn't been
28 -- there are persons in there to bring it back to their
29 people to discuss it -- for the Board to discuss. Plus the
30 other factor is the \$11 million for the whole state and it's
31 a first time thing. We don't know what -- we don't know how
32 much it's going to cost to do business up here for
33 subsistence regulations and there might be cost overrun or
34 not being able to enforce or implement permitting and
35 licensing and everything else. That's a concern I have.

36
37 And the fact that the big dollars do -- will come
38 from the Federal level and we don't even know how much that
39 would cover, the whole state on Federal lands. Especially in
40 our region, because the travel expense, living expense and
41 the hiring of staff, professional, that we would become
42 heavily dependent upon for their expertise, whether we're
43 going to hire from State biologist or Federal biologists and
44 that -- those kind of questions need to be addressed by the
45 Federal Subsistence Board and I think that -- I don't know
46 how far along they are in that area. But being the working
47 committee -- committee to that Federal Subsistence Board, we
48 need to let them know that we're concerned about it. That's
49 about what we can do.

50

00123

1 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair.

2 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

3

4 MR. BUCK: On the management of fisheries,
5 when the management of fisheries come out, they're going to
6 be coming out with the new Federal Register and especially --
7 and if we go into Federal takeover of subsistence -- another
8 Federal Register will come out. What I'd like this Council
9 to do is make sure that we have professional Staff that
10 direct us and explains the new Federal Register that is
11 coming out and give us an idea of what's happening so that
12 we'll have the expert people interpreting the Federal
13 Registers that's coming out and so we can be a step ahead of
14 what develops in that Federal Register.

15

16 Another thing I'd like to bring up is if we have the
17 annual report, that at some time, we make plans for this
18 Regional Council to meet with all the other Regional Councils
19 in Alaska and meet with the Federal Subsistence Board. And
20 have all the Regional Councils give direction to the Federal
21 Subsistence Board, interact with them, find out exactly what
22 we're doing and then that way I think our Regional Councils
23 will be more effective and we'll understand the Federal
24 Subsistence Board. I know it's going to take money but I
25 think a lot of good will come out of it. If you can have all
26 the Regional Councils get together with the Federal
27 Subsistence Board.

28

29 MR. KATCHEAK: Madame Chair. A question and
30 a concern. I don't know if it should be added on to the
31 annual report or not but this has been going on in my mind
32 for a while. Our past Council members, Advisory Council
33 members have served and have served very willingly. They
34 devote their time even though it takes time out of their
35 regular work and they're so committed that they need some --
36 we need some type of a recognition, an award for recognition
37 for those past Council members that have served to make this
38 Council very effective and working, and I'm wondering if I
39 should address it now or not.

40

41 After awhile I thought, well, those people that had
42 served in the past will be just names, you know, and held up
43 in the library or somewhere or a file and forgotten. We had
44 some Council members that have passed away and it's sort of
45 like they're forgotten, we don't know who they were, we're
46 kind of carrying the ball, so I'd like to know if we could
47 include that in the annual report. That we should recognize
48 these people that have served in the past.

49

50 MS. DEGNAN: I think it's very appropriate.

00124

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You're talking about from
2 the Council?

3
4 MR. KATCHEAK: From the Federal Subsistence
5 Board.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You know, I think there's
8 been -- Edgar, was the one I think that recognized, but was
9 anything sent to the family -- so do you want to.....

10
11 MR. EDENSHAW: Madame Chair, to answer Ted's
12 question. Past Council members, what the Council has done in
13 the past -- or the office is send certificates or plaques to
14 those Council members for their past service to the Council.
15 And you know, that's something, you know, it doesn't have to
16 be in the annual report, that's something I can work out with
17 Grace and the Council if they so choose.

18
19 Someone was talking about Loretta Motoyuk, who passed
20 away and she served on the Council a number of years ago, you
21 know, during the inception of the program. And that's
22 something that, you know, the office can do for her family,
23 you know, I believe her family still lives here in Nome, is
24 that correct, Perry?

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: (Nods affirmatively).

27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Perhaps a copy of the
31 letter or at least some notification to Council members could
32 be sent when that's done then that way we know or a Staff
33 person can report in our meetings that a certain thing has
34 happened to a Council member that has either res -- who did
35 not choose to rerun or who has resigned or, God forbid, pass
36 away, so we would all know.

37
38 MR. EDENSHAW: Madame Chair, I think what I
39 would further add is, you know, the communication that you
40 and I had in regards to the memo, just a follow-up, that
41 would be a good thing for you to continue.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Going back to the
44 issue that Fran was talking about, so we'll do three things
45 as Ida recommended. Yes, Fran.

46
47 MS. DEGNAN: Yes, I request that.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So in order to do
50 that, is it something that we need to do now or is it

00125

1 something that you want to be able to work with me on it with
2 Fran or.....

3

4 MS. DEGNAN: I think if we do it now with the
5 Council -- if the Council approves of it, I think it should
6 be done now. Council action, a motion to have this as an
7 issue.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: A letter drafted.

10

11 MS. DEGNAN: A letter drafted and for it to
12 be cited in the annual report. And I would so move.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And there was another one,
15 direct the Chair to bring it to the Federal Board meeting?

16

17 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So there is a motion and
20 the motion is to have a Staff member draft a letter to the
21 Office Management -- you used the word office management?

22

23 MS. HILDEBRAND: Office of Subsistence
24 Management.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, Office of
27 Subsistence Management regarding compacting of fish and game
28 management and directing the Chair to bring it to the Board
29 meeting and I'm missing something else.

30

31 MS. DEGNAN: And to have it as an addendum to
32 the annual report.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And have it as an.....

35

36 MS. DEGNAN: An issue.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:as an issue in the
39 annual report. Is there a second?

40

41 MR. KATCHEAK: Second.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Discussion.

44

45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Second.

46

47 COURT REPORTER: Ted.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Discussion.

50

00126

1 MR. EDENSHAW: Madame Chair, maybe Ida can
2 help clarify some of this. If I'm to -- you know, when I
3 prepare the issues that you're discussing regarding
4 compacting for the annual report, I'm not sure if the other
5 Councils had clarified or -- in their letters to Tom or the
6 inclusion for the annual report, just what services that
7 they're requesting for compacting? Because, you know, for
8 Park Service and BLM, the agencies, they have biologists who
9 go out there and actually collect information.....

10
11 MS. DEGNAN: Well, we.....

12
13 MR. EDENSHAW:and what kind of.....

14
15 MS. DEGNAN:can't tell you what is
16 available out there in those agencies because we don't know
17 what their budget is and what is available. But what we can
18 tell you is it's an issue that we're interested in and that
19 we need information pertaining to that, what's available and
20 what's available under the public law that enables tribal
21 entities and organizations to enter into a compact. So it
22 starts the dialogue or raises the issue, and that's all this
23 is.

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: It's not actually going into
26 it.

27
28 MS. DEGNAN: No.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: It's to alert those
31 guys.....

32
33 MS. DEGNAN: Yes. To see what's available
34 there.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: That is an area that the
37 Federal Subsistence Board should be looking into.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: But I raise question and
40 concern, too, about cost.

41
42 MS. DEGNAN: Oh, yeah.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But it's something that we
45 would like to begin looking to, because we would like to be
46 able to manage, we've talked for many years about managing --
47 or at least being part of the management of fish and game.
48 And it's a start. And at some point in time it would alert
49 the Federal Subsistence Board, that this is what this region
50 is interested in doing. How it's done is perhaps a long time

00127

1 in the future but it's an issue that we'll continue to bring
2 up.

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: In other words, you've
5 brought it to the table and now it will be there now.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, we brought it to the
8 table.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: That's what I.....

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So there's a motion on the
13 floor, I didn't hear a second?

14
15 MR. KATCHEAK: I seconded it.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, okay, and we were in
18 discussion; I'm repeating myself at this point. Any further
19 discussion.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: Question.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been called,
24 all is favor signify by saying aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All is opposed same sign.

29
30 (No opposing responses)

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Passed unanimously. So
33 Cliff, if you have any questions regarding this you can call
34 me or Fran and I'll try to explain what I can.

35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: All right.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But is what we're trying
39 to say clear?

40
41 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Okay.

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: Do we need a Russian trout
46 -- oh.....

47
48 MR. EDENSHAW: Madame Chair, I just had one
49 additional comment that Peter -- and Taylor will certainly
50 clarify that in his portion of the fisheries. But Peter,

00128

1 inside your book is the Federal Register, inside the block
2 here in regards to these regulations, it says, please note
3 that the effective date for these published regulations is
4 October 1st, 1999. So if the State doesn't do anything by
5 then these regulations in here will take effect that date.
6 And when I was in training yesterday, I discussed certain
7 issues that the Council should be -- or just -- so it's in
8 there.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: He's one of the few lucky
11 citizens to get it first -- basically in the region because
12 this isn't all over the region yet.

13
14 MS. DEGNAN: And, Cliff, I think what he
15 wants is for you to explain the Federal Register thing right
16 now.

17
18 MR. BUCK: That Federal Register is for the
19 fisheries?

20
21 MR. EDENSHAW: Fisheries, yes.

22
23 MR. BUCK: Okay. Also if there's a Federal
24 takeover and another Federal Register comes out again or.....

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That is -- the one that he
27 was just replying to is the Federal takeover but it's only on
28 fisheries.

29
30 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I made a note in my notes
33 that we should probably, at the fall meeting -- I think your
34 idea's good, you know, that if we do end up managing
35 fisheries and that's going to go into effect in October, then
36 at that fall meeting we should -- we'll have an explanation
37 of which rivers it applies to and make sure people really
38 understand it. I think your suggestion was good.

39
40 MR. BUCK: Okay, that's what I'd like, too.

41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I also heard him say that
45 whoever's effective by -- that a simplified version as to
46 what it is would be provided to the group of people that are
47 going to be effective by the regulatory changes or the new
48 regulations. I mean it's cumbersome for me to read the
49 entire thing.

50

00129

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's easier for me to
4 read, for example, it would be easier for me to read no more
5 than this -- versus State ordinance, you know, it's easier
6 for me to understand. What I said.....

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: The Reader Digest version.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:and things that are
11 just effecting Nome.

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's a good idea.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: For example if there are
16 things there that effect Unalakleet, there should be
17 something that's condensed, simpler for people in that region
18 to be able to have access to in the form of a pamphlet or
19 something like that that they could -- because this would be
20 something new, just for that region. And I know it cost
21 money but it would help. Or at least, that's part of what I
22 hear Peter to be saying.

23

24 MR. BUCK: The other thing was, a question of
25 having the Regional Councils get together with everybody else
26 at the same time.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: That is a question.....

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I didn't hear, what did
31 you say?

32

33 MR. BUCK: If you can get all the Regional
34 Councils together, maybe in Anchorage or somewhere where they
35 can meet together with all the other members and then meet
36 with the Federal Subsistence Board.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Instead of.....

39

40 MR. BUCK: I think that will take a lot of
41 the misunderstanding between the Federal Subsistence Board
42 and the Regional Councils, especially if all the Regional
43 Councils get together and discuss what to do. Discuss their
44 problems among themselves and then to meet together with the
45 Board.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair. This may be
48 something you might want to think about, the Northwest Arctic
49 and the North Slope Councils are having a joint meeting in
50 Anchorage in October just before AFN. And maybe you'd want

00130

1 to -- I don't know, I mean they're meeting because of issues
2 with muskox but maybe you'd like to meet -- I don't know if
3 they could do -- you'd have to ask Taylor about it.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What he is saying, that if
6 the State takes over.....

7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I mean if the Federal
11 government takes over.....

12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:in lieu of having two
16 Regional meetings, maybe one meeting -- each of the Regional
17 Councils throughout the state would meet with the Federal
18 Subsistence Board as a total group in Anchorage, give up one
19 meeting perhaps and just have one regional meeting. Because
20 these issues are going to be very important for us and we
21 would like to be able to meet with other Regional Councils
22 and be able to discuss it.

23
24 It's something I guess we could recommend from this
25 Council in the annual report or somewhere that for people to
26 start considering, and that could be included in the annual
27 report, couldn't it?

28
29 MR. BRELSFORD: Of course.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So it's something that we
32 would like the Federal Subsistence Board to consider.
33 Because if the Feds takeover and we're still within our
34 regions, we would like to have the opportunity to meet with
35 Southeast Alaska, to meet with Barrow and see where their
36 feelings are because it's a large task.

37
38 MR. BRELSFORD: Let me just respond quickly,
39 we're still under the matter of annual report and we haven't
40 really heard the background briefing on fisheries and what
41 plans are already underway. But I do want to say that the
42 question of how to reach out and communicate with the
43 villages about the new fisheries structure is a critical one.
44 It's one that Ida and Sandy Rabinowitch from the Park
45 Service, the Staff Committee has probably a dozen planning
46 questions that they're just now getting underway to address.
47 And one of those is public outreach, or public village
48 outreach to communicate about this new structure. It's going
49 to be big and complicated and confusing for everybody and do
50 to it well, we're going to have to do a lot of outreach. So

00131

1 for you guys to make a suggestion about how to do the
2 outreach in a good way is very welcome, and I think what
3 Peter is suggesting is kind of a big convention really of the
4 Regional Councils, 100 members from across Alaska to meet
5 directly with the Federal Subsistence Board. That's a very
6 valuable suggestion.

7
8 At some point we're going to have to weigh and
9 balance what the money looks like, how to spend it, what to
10 do with publications, what to do with radio programs or
11 television, all kinds of ways to communicate out to the
12 villages so I don't think any of us could tell you the Board
13 is going to adopt that suggestion but it's a good suggestion
14 to put into the hopper for this kind of thinking. And Ida,
15 is one of the critical people involved in the planning work,
16 so she's heard the benefit of your discussion this afternoon
17 about why that would be an important and valuable step in
18 communicating about the new fisheries responsibilities.

19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Taylor, even if the Board
21 didn't want to do that, couldn't this Council, at least, meet
22 with the two other northern ones and they could at least have
23 the northern regions have a joint one, if you chose to have
24 your fall meeting right before AFN. And maybe not the whole
25 meeting be joint but the fisheries portion could be joint.
26 And because it's in Anchorage, we could probably request that
27 some Federal Subsistence Board members come, I would think,
28 don't.....

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: It's one option among many.
31 Another option mentioned yesterday, was the fall meetings
32 would be the village outreach meetings by this Council and
33 that you would prefer to go to villages in the fall and in
34 Nome in the winter. An Anchorage meeting next September or
35 October would kind of not line up with that so you might want
36 to think about how you want to do your own village outreach
37 and communication of this issue in the villages. But all of
38 these are options that could be considered as we go forward.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: I think a little
41 justification is that we've been having problems with
42 subsistence fish for the past 10 years and I think that we're
43 -- I mean we're willing to go with the flow on the State
44 level but we're trying to do that -- adhere to the processes.
45 And I think the citizens of this region has been working
46 toward that role and is trying to fulfill them. Because we
47 have a deadline by the end of this month, we're doing that,
48 now we're -- just in case that fails, then we want to be
49 ready for the Federal take -- for when the Federals takeover
50 -- is in process. Just to make a voice in the wilderness

00132

1 saying that we haven't had any subsistence for over 10 years
2 as customary and traditional time.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: One reason is we.....

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: Just alert -- just for that
7 alert.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:we take this matter
10 very seriously simply because we'll be going from one entity
11 to another entity and we want to make sure that there is
12 input from the subsistence users.

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL: Then we're going to have to
15 be schooling another group of people, whoever takes over, I
16 don't know. The citizens are pretty befuddled of how the
17 process will be. We're worried. We're scared.

18
19 MS. DEGNAN: I can tell you from experience,
20 it took our Coastal Management Group seven years of intensive
21 meetings and going to each of the villages to get a plan
22 written that was as a result of local public input. But it
23 took us seven years and we'd meet for two days in a community
24 and we'd go to 5:00/6:00 and 3:00 or 4:00 or 5:00 o'clock in
25 the morning and we took it very seriously because it means --
26 and the outcome of that was subsistence was the highest
27 priority use of any resource in this region. So that plan
28 was accepted by the Federal government and was accepted by
29 the State government. And so this is just an offshoot of the
30 same effort with a lesser number of meetings and with a Staff
31 that's further removed from the region.

32
33 So I know with the experience that we've all shared
34 through going through that that the same diligence is carried
35 out with this Council and we're sure that it's going on in
36 every Council in the State of Alaska because it means, you
37 know, we're primarily the users or representatives of those
38 users. So it's taken in all seriousness.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I also believe that, you
41 know, meeting of all the Councils, would be able to -- there
42 wouldn't be so many conflicting things that would be
43 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board. I think that
44 even if the three of us meet it's not exactly the same thing
45 as a meeting as a whole, all of the Councils together. And I
46 think if people would give up one meeting, that's allocating
47 some money for the travel. I mean I think our Council would
48 be more than willing to give up a meeting just to be meeting
49 with the other Councils because the issue is so important.

50

00133

1 MR. MENDENHALL: I call the question to the
2 motion on the annual report because we are going to have it
3 down here.

4
5 MS. HILDEBRAND: It's already been voted.

6
7 MR. BRELSFORD: It's already done.

8
9 MR. MENDENHALL: Already passed, okay, then
10 where are we now?

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Was there a motion or am I
13 just tired?

14
15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There's a motion, do you
16 want me to read it to you?

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

19
20 MS. HILDEBRAND: You already voted.

21
22 MR. EDENSHAW: You already voted.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: For the annual report.

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD: On the annual report, you
27 just voted.

28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, no, there is a motion
30 on the floor, I don't have it in my notes that it was voted,
31 maybe I missed it, too. But that Frances moved to have a
32 staff letter drafted.

33
34 COURT REPORTER: It's already been voted.

35
36 MS. DEGNAN: We passed that.

37
38 MR. BRELSFORD: Adopted unanimously.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's done unanimously.

41
42 MR. BRELSFORD: And Ted seconded.

43
44 COURT REPORTER: Right.

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Sorry.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess your wish is to
49 move on, right?

50

00134

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We're at number 9, Federal
4 Subsistence Board Update, Tab V. Did you guys want to go on
5 or just take a few minute break, no more than five.

6

7 MS. DEGNAN: I need a break.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's really hot in here
10 again, open some windows.

11

12 (Off record - 4:13 p.m.)

13

14 (On record - 4:20 p.m.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I will call the meeting
16 back to order, it's 4:20 now.

17

18 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

21

22 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think what Pete was talking
23 about earlier, about the Regional Councils getting together,
24 perhaps a motion would be in order to direct Cliff to write a
25 letter to whoever to make it happen.....

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The Federal Subsistence
28 Board.

29

30 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, a letter to the Federal
31 Subsistence Board in light of what Pete was talking about.
32 If somebody could help me with the motion then I will make
33 that motion.

34

35 MS. DEGNAN: Direct Staff to send a letter on
36 behalf of this Council to the Federal Subsistence Board
37 requesting a joint meeting of all Regional Advisory Councils
38 with the Subsistence Board pertaining to the takeover of the
39 fisheries program if it so occurs.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And a copy to be made to
42 all of the Regional Councils.

43

44 MS. DEGNAN: And a copy sent to each of the
45 Regional Councils.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there a second to the
48 motion?

49

50 MR. BUCK: Second.

00135

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Discussion.

2

3 MR. KATCHEAK: Question.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been called.

6 All is in favor signify by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Those opposed same sign.

11

12 (No opposing responses)

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Passed unanimously. Did

15 you.....

16

17 MR. BRELSFORD: I took notes.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, you got it right?

20

21 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes. And Helen's taking

22 notes and Ida so I'm sure we have it marked down.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Going on down we

25 were going to 9 right, C&T Working Group Update. And I

26 believe Helen.....

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, I have a

29 suggestion to reverse the order of my presentation and Taylor

30 since his is about fisheries and we've just been talking

31 about it, then it will roll right into it and then we'll do

32 mine at the end.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sounds like a good plan.

35 Taylor.

36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Madame Chair. I

38 know our time is now really quite short so I'll try and be as

39 simple and direct on the kinds of questions that were raised

40 among the Council members and not repeat. There is a fair

41 bit of written material in your booklet and I would very much

42 encourage you to read, for the details, in the book and

43 following the meeting, we will have a lot of time between now

44 and October when the regulations actually come into effect;

45 so at any time, if you guys want to call or we could organize

46 some other way to talk about these in more detail, that would

47 be welcome. We can't really go through all of it in a half

48 an hour this afternoon.

49

50 But I think I'd like to start just by trying to put

00136

1 the sequence together. Some of the milestone dates that will
2 be coming up just to be sure we're all working from the same
3 understanding. The final regulations, the actual regulations
4 that will govern Federal subsistence fisheries are already in
5 your hands. These were published on January 8, 1999. What
6 you have, and they're found in the booklets at Tab V, it's
7 the fine print of the Federal Register.

8
9 The critical thing is that these regulations do not
10 go into effect until October of 1999. They have a delayed
11 effective date. And I believe this has been part of our
12 conversations for the last two years or three years, the
13 purpose of that is to allow the Alaska Legislature one last
14 chance to resolve the non-compliance with ANILCA requirements
15 to come back into compliance with the Federal subsistence
16 priority and reunify subsistence management. But if they
17 don't do that, these regulations are good law. They're
18 valid, binding regulations as of October '99. And the other
19 big change from previous years is that there is real money on
20 the table. And the implementation funding is already in law,
21 \$11 million total. It comes in two phases. But it's --
22 there's no roadblock to Federal implementation because of
23 lack of money at this point. The money has now been
24 allocated as part of the last Congressional action.

25
26 At this point, in the winter Regional Council
27 meetings, we're trying to kind of give you the frame work of
28 where we are and some of the upcoming steps. But as a rule
29 we're not focusing on each and every provision of the
30 regulations because they're months and months away before we
31 would actually go into a program on the ground. So you have
32 the regulations. You have some of the press material and the
33 public communication documents, the little flyers that have
34 been provided to -- in a kind of simple way, explain where we
35 are, you have that material with you now.

36
37 And we'll talk a little bit more about some of the
38 planning effort that's under way. But people at Ida's level,
39 the Staff Committee members are meeting, gee, two or three
40 times a -- well, some weeks, every week, every month, they're
41 very actively involved in getting the planning efforts
42 underway starting now.

43
44 Also this spring, the Alaska Legislature is meeting
45 and you guys follow the same news reports that we do as far
46 as the chances of a solution, a Legislative solution in the
47 Legislature, I think you probably know that it's improper for
48 Federal employees to lobby to express a lot of opinions about
49 how Alaskans manage their own Legislative issues so we're not
50 really going to talk about that in our setting. But we will

00137

1 watch, just the same as you guys will watch, what happens in
2 the Alaska Legislature because if the Legislature acts to
3 provide for a public vote then the money goes to the State,
4 the Federal takeover would not happen. However, if the
5 Legislature does not act, if it's kind of stonewalled, if the
6 matter remains stalled in the State Legislature then some
7 other -- then the march towards the Federal Subsistence
8 Fisheries Program continues on.

9
10 A key date in this is June 1st of 1999. The first \$1
11 million of this allocation will be set out to be spent on
12 June 1st. That's what the Appropriations Bill says. And if
13 the State has made forward momentum on allowing the public
14 vote on the Constitution on resolving the impasse, then \$1
15 million planning money goes to the Alaska Department of Fish
16 and Game on June 1st. On the other hand, if there's no
17 action in the Legislature, then the first funding for Federal
18 planning, for significant Federal planning, would go to the
19 Federal would go to the Federal agencies on June 1st. And in
20 the Appropriations Bill it says that that money is for
21 planning for the management and for enforcement of Federal
22 regulations. So exactly how it would be spent, how much goes
23 to Forest Service or how much to the Department of the
24 Interior, the details are not yet finalized but it is a
25 fairly substantial sum of money and it would hire some
26 significant staff to really start organizing an agency, a
27 program on the ground for the fisheries takeover.

28
29 The next big milestone is this October 1st, 1999
30 date. That's the point at which those regulations, the ones
31 you have now would become legally binding. And again, it's
32 contingent on the State's actions. The other thing that
33 happens here is that the remaining money, appropriation of
34 now \$10 million more goes out, actually on September 30th,
35 but it would go to the Federal agencies if the State has not
36 acted or it would go to the State if the State has come into
37 compliance.

38
39 What we will be doing next fall in the Regional
40 Council meetings is to report back to you with a great deal
41 more detail about the organizational plan, about the
42 structure, the staffing of the Federal Subsistence Management
43 Program, who you will work with in each of the regions, with
44 a Regional Council coordinator positions, with a fisheries
45 biologist. All of that, we will have to have structured by
46 the winter -- by the fall 1999 Council meetings. We will
47 come back to you with this organizational question put
48 together.

49
50 The other primary matter that we're working on now

00138

1 that will be critically important to you at that time is this
2 idea of a protocol for the working relationship between the
3 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Federal
4 Subsistence Program. And we've mentioned many, many times
5 that the Federal program cannot operate in a vacuum, it, by
6 the very nature of fisheries management, is going to require
7 cooperation and interaction between the fish biologists
8 working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as well as
9 the Federal land managers. The Federal program will not be a
10 stand-alone program. But exactly how that relationship is
11 going to be organized is still under fairly vigorous
12 discussion between the top decision-makers, the Federal
13 Subsistence Board and representatives from the Alaska Board
14 of Fisheries have met once and will meet again. That's kind
15 of the level at which this discussion about how to cooperate
16 is going to take place.

17
18 Let me say one little bit more about what this means,
19 you guys are very familiar with in-season management, with
20 the fact that, you know, prior to the season you get run
21 estimates, you get allocation frameworks, but fish runs never
22 come in exactly the way somebody planned so the real art of
23 fisheries management is to make those adjustments in-season
24 in response to variation in run timing or run strength.
25 That's what guys like Charlie Lean do every year. He doesn't
26 have enough gray hair to look like he's done it for very
27 long.

28
29 MR. LEAN: Twenty years.

30
31 MR. BRELSFORD: But it's a quick turnaround,
32 it's a difficult job. And it can't be done with a big
33 committee and with a lot of back and forth between
34 headquarters and the field. We know that. The people who
35 have been in the fish business know that. You guys, who have
36 worked with the fisheries managers understand that. So part
37 of -- one of the major questions that we're still really
38 trying to figure out is in-season, when you need that quick
39 management turnaround, how will the Federal managers and the
40 State managers work together? What kind of coordination in
41 in-season management will be structured or organized between
42 the two departments.

43
44 So I don't think we have an answer on that now but
45 the negotiations between the Department of Fish and Game and
46 the Federal Subsistence Board are very much underway and we
47 will have an answer about that by October.

48
49 Following that, in the winter meetings of the year
50 2000, the Councils will meet and at that point we are just on

00139

1 the verge of the new fishing seasons, March 2000 will be the
2 first regulatory year, the first fishing seasons under the
3 Federal regs and it would be under the regs that you're
4 looking at now. That will also be the point at which
5 proposed changes in the regulations for later years would be
6 submitted. That would be like the start of the proposal
7 cycle on fish. So in March of 2000 you could submit proposed
8 changes for the fish regs that would occur in the spring of
9 2001, okay?

10
11 Also in this spring period or late winter, we will
12 prepare a public version of the Federal Fisheries
13 Regulations, it would look more like this one with the maps
14 and with much more simple organization of the regulations.
15 The Federal Registers are legal documents that sit in the
16 Department records but they're not a public document. We
17 don't send out the Federal Register on wildlife hunting.
18 It's pretty hard to make sense of. What we try to do is
19 simplify in a public version of wildlife regulations. And
20 the same sort of booklet would be prepared and distributed
21 for the fisheries regulations next spring.

22
23 And then finally the actual first fishing seasons
24 under the new Federal regs will occur in the spring a year
25 from now, in March of 2000.

26
27 So let me quit there. I was just trying to put some
28 of those in quick sequence. And let's see what Ida's got to
29 add and then maybe field some questions from you all.

30
31 MS. HILDEBRAND: I just wanted to add to the
32 Chairperson's question about, where in all the regs -- under
33 Tab V, Pages 1298 to 1299 specifically address Norton Sound,
34 and Pages 1302 to 1313 address the taking, in general, of
35 subsistence fishing. And that's just for reference purposes.

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: All fish.

38
39 MR. BRELSFORD: On the C&T.....

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: No, on the 1299, it says,
42 residents of Norton Sound.....

43
44 MS. DEGNAN: All fish.

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: Grayling and everything.

47
48 MR. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, that's the part
49 that Taylor just made reference to. That's the Federal
50 Register, it will be flushed out and more specific to this

00140

1 area when you do a regulations booklet.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD: There have been some changes
4 in the Federal waters effected by these regulations. I
5 remember pretty carefully the discussion a year -- maybe it
6 was a year ago, the last time we talked about Federal
7 fisheries regs, there was a lot of interest in these pre-
8 statehood withdrawals at the mouth of the Unalakleet River,
9 near the Fish River Bridge and at Wales, and I -- I want to
10 come back to this and be more specific with you guys because
11 there is a change in the version that's here.

12

13 So the waters effected by these regulations, the
14 Federal waters where we will be involved are found on Page
15 1287. And you might want to put a marker there and kind of
16 look back at it at another time to really go through the
17 details of it. But generally, it's saying that the waters
18 where the Federal Subsistence Program will exercise
19 jurisdiction are inland navigable waters, not marine waters.
20 And they are these inland navigable waters inside of Federal
21 Conservation Units. In your area, that's primarily the
22 Bering Land Bridge National Monument.

23

24 MR. ADKISSON: Preserve.

25

26 MR. BRESLFORD: Preserve. In the northern
27 part of Norton Sound and in the southern part of Norton
28 Sound, there's a small part of the Yukon-Delta National
29 Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, if you read down in the
30 bottom of that column it talks about the components of the
31 Wild and Scenic River systems. And you'll see in that
32 paragraph reference to the Unalakleet River.

33

34 Where we talked about those IRA selected lands at the
35 mouth of the Unalakleet and at the mouth of the Wales, that
36 has been removed from Federal jurisdiction, there was a legal
37 decision made by the solicitor between the draft and now this
38 version that really went to publication which drops those
39 Maritime waters, those marine waters. So I did want to
40 clarify that. And Charlie, that holds as well for the
41 Maritime Refuge lands near the Fish River Bridge. So it's
42 the inland navigable waters within these conservation units
43 plus the portion of the Wild and Scenic River on the
44 Unalakleet midway up.

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: How about Area M?

47

48 MR. BRESLFORD: Perry.

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: That's a.....

00141

1 MR. BRESLFORD: Soft ball, man. This is
2 blatant.....

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I can see where.....

5
6 MR. BRESLFORD: Okay, it's clear to everybody
7 that the one -- that the critical question in Norton Sound is
8 not so much the direct management of Federal waters because
9 they are very limited in extent. So when you guys look at
10 that map and you look at these regulations, you say well,
11 God, that's not going to be much help, our subsistence
12 problems are different, they're taking place in marine
13 waters. We believe many people in the region believe that
14 one of the big causes is actually the intercept fisheries
15 elsewhere, in Area M, in the False Pass fisheries. The
16 specific part of these regulations that would come into play
17 is this section on extraterritoriality.

18
19 And I think we've talked about it a little bit but I
20 could mention the page references if anybody wants to go back
21 at another point. On Page 1289 under the section of Federal
22 Board responsibilities, it says that the Secretaries retain
23 their existing authorities for extraterritorial jurisdiction.
24 The middle column on the bottom paragraph. And then on the
25 following page, 1290, there's another portion at which the
26 Federal Board can receive proposals and evaluate the facts
27 and make recommendations to the Secretary regarding
28 extraterritorial jurisdiction.

29
30 Perry, it's roman numeral XVII about the middle of
31 the left hand column. It's a very complicated question. The
32 circumstances under which the Secretary of Interior could
33 reach off of Federal waters and regulate commercial takes in
34 Area M in order to protect subsistence users in Norton Sound
35 or in other areas, it's going to be very complex, legally,
36 administratively, politically. So we will have a chance to
37 talk in some more detail.

38
39 One of planning questions that the Staff Committee is
40 working on is actual procedures for the request of
41 extraterritorial jurisdiction. What information would be
42 required, how you submit it, what the deadlines, what the
43 time lines for deliberations would be. Those details are not
44 yet mapped out, Perry, but they will be part of what we have
45 available in the fall time.

46
47 I would really only emphasize two points, first of
48 all, it's very fact dependent. There has to be pretty
49 compelling scientific proof that the shortage, the failure of
50 subsistence uses in the Federal lands is caused by something

00142

1 going on elsewhere. So the fact basis has to be clear and
2 compelling. And the second point is that administratively
3 this is at the highest level of the government. It's the
4 Secretary of Interior who does this, it is not delegated down
5 to the Federal Board. So it will be time consuming and very
6 carefully considered before the Secretary would jump into a
7 political controversy of that level.

8
9 MR. MENDENHALL: There's a lot of records
10 showing facts -- or attempting to show facts.

11
12 MR. BRESLFORD: Right.

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL: A lot of meetings and
15 things.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: This is the first time
18 I've ever seen it, in 1287, the first column in 29, White
19 Mountain National Recreation Area?

20
21 MR. DENTON: That's over out of Fairbanks.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, that's why I was
24 like.....

25
26 MR. DENTON: It's called the White Mountain
27 Recreation area, that's BLM designated.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:you know, never heard
30 of it. Okay, Fairbanks area?

31
32 MR. DENTON: Correct.

33
34 MR. BRESLFORD: Let me say that Ida has
35 already shown you where the C&T determinations are for
36 fisheries on Page 1299. And then the Norton Sound/Port
37 Clarence, the actual seasons and bag limits, North Sound/Port
38 Clarence area are found on Page 1305 starting on the left-
39 hand column on Page 1305. And those are really the seasons
40 and bag limits. They are largely adopted from the State
41 season so they should look very familiar to you already.

42
43 But in case you want to really read the details on
44 how this would play out in Norton Sound, the C&Ts are found
45 at one place and then the actual seasons and bag limits are
46 found in another.

47
48 I think in terms of the content of the regulations,
49 well, there's a simple summary in the handout, the first page
50 following Tab B (sic) raises a couple of other topics that I

00143

1 won't say anymore about. I've emphasized the importance of
2 this cooperation/coordination effort with the State. There's
3 a little bit of an explanation about a lawsuit out in the
4 Federal District Courts posed by the Alaska Legislative
5 Council. And at this point it's pretty much dead in the
6 water but if you're interested in the purposes and the
7 issues, there's some more discussion there.

8
9 I'd like to draw attention to a couple of items under
10 the what comes next paragraph. Most of it we've already
11 talked about, organizational structure, staffing, working
12 with ADF&G. There are some unresolved issues that will be
13 analyzed through the summer. One of those is customary
14 trade. And then if you move down to the third bullet, there
15 will also be discussion of Regional Advisory Committee
16 structures, Regional Advisory Council structures. Whether
17 there need to be any changes to take on the new workload of
18 the fisheries program. And on the Yukon River, in
19 particular, where there individual Regional Councils have
20 responsibilities, how those three would coordinate and work
21 together. We expect to spend a fair effort trying to
22 interview people who are familiar with advisory programs, the
23 State local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, for example,
24 or regional groups like the Yukon Drainage River -- the Yukon
25 River Drainage Fishermen's Association. We want a lot more
26 input, a lot more advice about how to organize an advisory
27 program on the Yukon River before we get into the business.
28 It's a new level of complexity and coordination across a
29 whole water shed. So that's one of the analysis issues that
30 will take place this summer.

31
32 And then the final thing, Fran, refers to identify
33 and implement cooperative management opportunities for tribal
34 and Native organizations. And I want to say that this has
35 been a very clear directive from Deborah Williams, last fall,
36 when she was the Secretary's specialist for Alaskan issues,
37 and Mitch Demientieff, in the earliest discussions of Federal
38 takeovers, they have been quite firm that there will be an
39 active program of involvement with the tribes and with Alaska
40 Native organizations. The new special assistant for Alaska
41 affairs, the Secretary's assistant is Marilyn Heiman, she
42 replaces Deborah Williams. I think her appointment was
43 effective just a couple of weeks ago. In her first meeting
44 with Tom Boyd, my -- our director, one of the three or four
45 central issues that she wanted to know about progress on, she
46 wanted to highlight as an area that she considers extremely
47 important was precisely this question of involvement of the
48 Alaska Native community and particularly of contracting of
49 involvement in the management programs. So I think there
50 will be a fair bit of data gathering about existing programs

00144

1 where villages and tribes manage count towers and weirs, some
2 of those are educational programs with young people as in
3 Tanana. There's a lot going on out there now that we want to
4 inventory and draw the best ideas of. And then I think there
5 would be some priorities and some procedures for how this
6 compacting or contracting with tribes will occur after
7 October as part of the Federal Subsistence Management
8 program.

9
10 So I think that the concern that you've raised about
11 is one very much shared by AFN and by others in the Alaska
12 Native leadership as they have lobbied in Washington and
13 lobbied with the Secretary. And I feel like the marching
14 orders to the Departments are actually quite strong on that
15 point at this time.

16
17 So I think I've hit -- I think I've done -- I hope
18 I'm done. If there are other questions or comments, we'd be
19 happy to field them.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: That was a good briefing.

22
23 MS. DEGNAN: Very good.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, very much.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: Item number 10.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: C&T Working Group Update.

30 Helen.

31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 You all probably remember our last meeting where we talked
34 about C&T and we brainstormed ideas of how we might want to
35 change how we make C&T decisions or recommendations from the
36 Council.

37
38 There was a working group that was established by the
39 Board in May of last year, as you may remember, to address
40 those questions and they met three times, had one
41 teleconference. The people in the working group were Dan
42 O'Hara, Craig Fleener, Bill Thomas, who are all Council
43 Chairs, Ida Hildebrand, Sandy Rabinowitch and Ken Thompson
44 who are Staff Committee members, Keith Goltz and then Mitch
45 Demientieff's name was left off of this list but he was a
46 very critical member, he was the Chair of that group.

47
48 The group met in November after all the Councils had
49 talked about this to try to come up with a formal
50 recommendation to the Board as to how we should proceed next.

00145

1 And I have to say it was a very difficult meeting. There
2 were very diverse opinions as to what we should do and there
3 was basically a lack of agreement of what direction to go in
4 and eventually they reached somewhat of a -- I don't know, my
5 description of it would be a stalemate, maybe that's not
6 totally accurate.

7
8 Nine out of the 10 Councils did vote to continue
9 doing C&T. One of the issues had been, should we even do
10 C&Ts, is it necessary, and nine out of the 10 Councils voted
11 to do that. Four of the Councils voted, as did this Council,
12 that we should do C&T and leave it up to the Councils to have
13 their -- the process recommended by the Councils. There was
14 enough of a diverse opinion within the group that four out of
15 10 wasn't enough to carry them. The Councils had -- by and
16 large there was at least a feeling that C&T should be done in
17 a slightly different way with perhaps not all the factors,
18 maybe doing five factors or some change in the factors but
19 there were some Councils who thought we should stick with the
20 status quo.

21
22 There were some very important central themes that
23 came out of it. I mean there were some -- I think some very
24 good things that we talked about. And the first on that list
25 is the importance of traditional knowledge that should be
26 included in C&T determinations in the analysis. All of the
27 Councils emphasized that importance. And it was felt that,
28 while lots of the Councils do provide that information,
29 occasionally it's not emphasized as much as it should be to
30 the Board or the Board doesn't listen to that information
31 always. So there -- without having to change regulations, we
32 can have a concerted effort to try to have full recognition
33 of the importance of traditional knowledge and include as
34 much as we can in our analysis.

35
36 The second issue was to do multiple species analysis.
37 That would be to do -- rather than doing C&T only on moose,
38 to look at maybe moose, caribou, muskox, you know, all at
39 once. And in this region we've done most of the C&T -- we've
40 done all the C&T on the large game so it may not be as much
41 of an issue. But if we were to decide to do it for the
42 smaller game, we could do them all at once if we wanted to.
43 We're trying it out this year with the combined analysis for
44 some of the Region 2's C&Ts. There's some regions that are
45 still doing a lot of them and we'll see how that works. We
46 worked hard on figuring out a format for how we wanted to do
47 that so we had a combined discussions. They were for Healy
48 Lake, a combined discussion on Healy Lake. And then dealt
49 with the species underneath that discussion.

50

00146

1 There were also differences of opinion of how we
2 should do C&T between regions. And one of the concerns
3 people had is what we do if in one region they want to do C&T
4 one way and in another region they do it another way and that
5 species is a crossover between regions. How do we deal with
6 that. so that -- and that we -- we got hung up on that.
7 What do we do in that case? Some Councils are more
8 restrictive than others. And it's really why we got into
9 this whole discussion to begin with because even within the
10 eight factors, there's some real broad ways that they've been
11 applied. Some regions have taken it very literally and if a
12 community doesn't fit any of the factors they won't give them
13 C&T. Whereas in other regions they've looked at it very
14 broadly and said these people are a part of a region and they
15 -- and you know, they want to make it a region wide C&T. So
16 it's caused some complications. So that was one of the
17 problems we ran into.

18
19 The final vote of the working group was to not make
20 any changes in the regulations at this time. This will be
21 presented to the Board at an undetermined date, it hasn't
22 been decided. I think the thinking is that we really need to
23 deal with this before fisheries comes along because we're
24 going to have to deal with a lot of C&T for fish. But we --
25 they just didn't get any farther in making any substantial
26 changes in how we do C&T at this point.

27
28 Hopefully we'll have some sort of resolution before
29 next fall. I wanted to invite Ida to make any comments
30 because she was a very primary member of that committee and
31 see if she has anything she'd like to add.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ida.

34
35 MS. HILDEBRAND: Hopefully, this will be the
36 last time. Ida Hildebrand, Staff Committee member, BIA.
37 This discussion, especially at the Eastern Interior Regional
38 Council meeting, had a quite different tone because Craig
39 Fleener was a member of that group and so was I. And our
40 points were that the Councils, although they voted to retain
41 some form of C&T, they did not unanimous -- one Council only
42 voted to keep the eight factors. All of the other Councils
43 voted to change those, have fewer factors or more factors or
44 for the Councils to determine what weight would be given to
45 any factor.

46
47 Mitch Demientieff, as Chairman of the Board was very
48 concerned about trying to get this resolved before the
49 fisheries issue came on board. And some of the members of
50 the work group could not vote or discuss anything other than

00147

1 what their particular Council said, although they were
2 reminded they were representative of all Councils and that
3 was part of the stalemate. So I don't believe the question
4 is over. I don't believe the discussion is over. It will
5 come back to the surface, whether Mr. Demientieff calls it
6 back or one of the Regional Councils. But I don't believe
7 the material was properly presented as representative of how
8 the individual Councils did recommend -- their
9 recommendations weren't properly presented.

10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's all I have. Thank
12 you, Ida, those were great comments.

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL: Could you tell us what page
15 C&Ts are.....

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Right here right after
18 regulations.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: Oh, those are the C&Ts for
21 us?

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And those were the --
24 there's Southcentral and then ours is on Page 5, Seward
25 Peninsula.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: Oh, okay. I was looking at
28 the.....

29
30 MR. BRESLFORD: Within the fisheries regs
31 it's on Page 1299.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Under recommendations.

34
35 MR. BRESLFORD: It's one line, Perry, it may
36 have slipped through.....

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: I know, it says all fish.

39
40 MR. BRESLFORD: And then all residents of the
41 Norton Sound/Port Clarence area.

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

44
45 MR. ADKISSON: Say, Taylor, I think you got
46 to be a little careful.....

47
48 MR. BRESLFORD: That's it.

49
50 MR. ADKISSON:in that -- Ken Adkisson,

00148

1 National Park Service. I think you really need to be careful
2 and do a lot of reading in those fish regs because they're
3 pretty complex and when you start looking at them I think
4 you'll find there's three basic areas that members of this
5 Council need to look at.

6
7 There's the Kotzebue area, because like Shishmaref
8 and Wales are sometimes included in there. Then there's the
9 Norton Sound stuff and then there's the Yukon Drainage.
10 Especially when you look at some of the C&T, you'll find like
11 Stebbins is included in there.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: So you really need to read
16 those regs carefully.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I had marked those, I was
19 going to ask about that, but I guess Stebbins is included.

20
21 If I'm correct, when I read through all of the
22 summary of the Regional Council comments, I read through them
23 and I did not notice any other Council that had inclusion of
24 tribal entity as a recommendation; am I correct on that
25 or.....

26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, it may not have been
28 in their final recommendation but it was a subject that was
29 discussed according to the people who were at those meetings.
30 I mean it was only three but that they -- oh, the inclusion
31 of tribal entities?

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's kind of like.....

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:what we were talking
38 about earlier.

39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I read all of them and
43 unless.....

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You know, one of the --
46 one of the -- I'm not -- I guess one of the problems I had
47 with it, too, was that we didn't get into a discussion at the
48 North Slope, the Northwest or this Council of how we would do
49 C&T, we just decided that the Regional Councils would
50 determine it.

00149

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: That's all it says.

4

5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And so -- yeah, yeah,

6 and.....

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

9

10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:that was what the
11 vote was of these Councils and that's really all we asked
12 for. And so then it became, well, how would they do it and
13 -- but I -- so I guess the fact that it's not there, doesn't
14 mean that people weren't interested in it, I guess is what
15 I'm saying.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, I just wondered.

18

19 MR. MENDENHALL: It's a later.....

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Because it was
22 specifically written on Page 5 on our recommendation but I
23 just couldn't find it -- because I know it's -- from talking
24 to the past Chairpersons, that it's an issue that comes up
25 over and over again and I was kind of surprised that we.....

26

27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It may just.....

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:were the only group
30 that put it down in writing.

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right. I wouldn't say
33 that's because other groups don't agree with it I think it
34 just may not have come out.

35

36 MS. HILDEBRAND: Madame Chairman, that was
37 part of my statement that the recommendations of the Councils
38 weren't properly reflected in the materials. Many Councils
39 mentioned that in their discussions -- or their
40 deliberations, and one of the recommendations of the work
41 group was to go back and look at exactly what the Councils
42 said and bring that forward. That that hasn't been done by
43 the office, although I have gone back over and reread all the
44 transcripts in reference to C&T, and at this time I think it
45 was just presented to you -- or to your Council as an update
46 as what happened.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Because I had sent for a
49 couple of other Regional Councils annual report and it showed
50 on there and I was like kind of surprised because it's a very

00150

1 important issue that was left out except for our Council.

2

3 Okay, anymore comments or questions?

4

5 MR. MENDENHALL: It just seems that what
6 we're doing on the State level is a little bit ahead of this
7 Board in that regard on the Nome subdistrict chum situation.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: On the.....

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: For going through the
12 customary and traditional stuff tomorrow and last year.....

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there a request from
15 the Council to hear from anybody else?

16

17 Hearing none, I'll go up to the nominations update
18 and I am turning in my application so I will be on the list.
19 Which it is on Tab W. And we were handed out a list of who
20 has already applied for 1999, so I will be turning mine in
21 before the end of the day, Cliff. It looks like quite a big
22 list.

23

24 MR. EDENSHAW: Just a couple of comments,
25 Madame Chair. On the list with yours to be in there soon, if
26 you look on the following page after the application, Page 1,
27 2, 3, you'll see that we have one seat that's going to be
28 filled due to a resignation, as well as Grace, Ted, and
29 Perry's seat, and Perry has already submitted his
30 application, Grace and Ted. And also an alternate for the
31 southern portion of Unit 22. So we will have four seats to
32 fill and a vacant seat. And that period closes March 26th.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, you'll have mine
35 before you leave.

36

37 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anything else in the
40 nominations? If not, let's go to the place of next Regional
41 Council meeting. And this is our window -- this is your
42 window, here's my window.

43

44 MR. MENDENHALL: That's your window.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, that's my window.

47

48 MR. MENDENHALL: I'll keep my window over
49 here.

50

00151

1 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair.

2
3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

4
5 MR. ENINGOWUK: I'd like to make a
6 recommendation, for those of us that work at home, it's
7 sometimes difficult for us to get away from those traditions
8 and I'd probably ask that you have these meetings on a
9 Saturday and weekend.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: A weekend meeting?

12
13 MR. ENINGOWUK: Because it's sometimes real
14 hard for us to get away from.....

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: And losing income.

17
18 MS. DEWHURST: Madame Chair. I just happen
19 to be talking to one of our other team members and Eastern
20 Interior met on the weekend just recently. And he had
21 expressed to me how, at the time it seemed like a real good
22 idea but after they did it, they all said we never want to do
23 this again. The issue came up -- mainly there it was a two
24 day meeting and everybody wanted to go to church on Sunday
25 but they were so busy they didn't have time to do that and
26 that's where it became a big conflict, was, I guess mainly
27 the Sunday.

28
29 So I just thought I'd bring that up, that he had
30 shared that with me and it became a big issue with that
31 particular Council.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What is the feeling on
34 having a meeting on a work day versus the weekend? Toby.

35
36 MR. ANUNGAZUK, JR.: I think I would rather
37 have it on the weekend.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

40
41 MR. SEETOT: That's pretty much my own time
42 off, I guess, during the weekend.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Peter.

45
46 MR. BUCK: I prefer the weekend, too.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Weekend, meaning, does
49 that include Friday or.....

50

00152

1 MR. BUCK: It doesn't matter to me but I'd go
2 along with the weekend, too.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Are we talking about
5 inclusion of Friday or travel on a Friday? Because if we're
6 going to have it on a weekend then people are going to start
7 traveling on a Friday.

8
9 MR. SEETOT: I would think that you would
10 have to take into account about the Staff, they would have to
11 be pretty well prepared, you know, in case they have to call
12 other places for more information and stuff like that. They
13 would have to have everything on hand pretty much.

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fran.

15
16 MS. DEGNAN: I have.....

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No opinion on it.

19
20 MS. DEGNAN:no preference.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ted.

23
24 MR. KATCHEAK: I prefer weekend, and that's
25 because I work full-time. I work five days a week and it
26 sort of takes my time off to attend these meetings, but I'd
27 go along with the majority of the people also.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'm just going to not even
30 put my opinion in. Perry.

31
32 MR. MENDENHALL: I'll go along with the
33 majority as long as it isn't conflicting with AFN.

34
35 MS. DEGNAN: And regional.....

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But it also means that the
38 travel -- if we're going to have a meeting on a Saturday, it
39 means the travel would begin on a Friday.

40
41 MS. DEWHURST: And you might not get back
42 until Monday because a lot of the Bush charter operators
43 don't fly on Sunday.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: On Sunday. Well, there's
46 a couple of things to consider.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: In our region they do.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, we do.

00153

1 MR. ADKISSON: I think only Cape Smythe
2 doesn't.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And I think if we had it
5 in a place where -- earlier we were talking about the fall
6 meeting be outside of Nome because it's easier then to travel
7 to an area where it has more Federal land, which was either
8 Unalakleet, Teller, Shishmaref, around the Brevig, you know,
9 Teller has some accommodations, but like I said earlier,
10 within our communities we are always holding something huge
11 and people will always find a place for you to stay. I don't
12 know if there's -- you know, there's always the school or
13 someplace where people could stay. But Teller does have a
14 hotel and it's on the roadway. And then Unalakleet, of
15 course, have all the space in the world, uh?

16
17 So is that still the wishes of the Council, where our
18 fall meetings would fall in one of the area -- either close
19 to Bering Land Bridge or to the BLM land in Unalakleet?

20
21 MR. KATCHEAK: I'd like to make a suggestion
22 -- or a recommendation or suggestion, that if we hold it in a
23 village, my past experience, when I used to work for Bering
24 Strait Native Corporation, I'd stay in a home and most people
25 are receptive or willing to put people up in their homes.
26 And because of the diversity of people, I'm very sure that
27 people from Brevig Mission want to know and want to hear what
28 a person from another village, and why they're here and what
29 they're doing, that's sort of like an incentive for villagers
30 to participate.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: One advantage about Brevig
33 and Teller is they're just across from each other, too. But
34 I don't know -- we could hear from Elmer.

35
36 MR. SEETOT: I guess the government -- or the
37 people that you stay with expect a certain amount, you know,
38 for lodging and stuff like that. You know, the government,
39 you know, just gives us a certain amount and then you -- you
40 might as well just give the whole amount, you know, to the
41 place where you're staying or just for an overnight stay,
42 just to cover meals, I think. And then that doesn't leave
43 the people that are being -- that are the host, you know,
44 with too many options of, okay, we're going to have to kick
45 you out because your money is already accounted for.

46
47 MR. BRESLFORD: Madame Chair.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Taylor.

50

00154

1 MR. BRESLFORD: I think this is a very
2 important point to try and clarify. We've actually held
3 many meetings in smaller communities where Council members
4 stayed with families. And the money that goes to the Council
5 members for per diem is typically for food and we have paid a
6 separate amount as an honorarium for lodging to the host
7 families separate from the per diem.....

8 MR. SEETOT: Oh, okay.

9
10 MR. BRESLFORD:amounts that go to the
11 members.

12
13 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

14
15 MR. BRESLFORD: So I believe we're able to
16 address that question without any difficulty whatsoever.
17 We've done it a number of times in many parts of the state,
18 Western Interior, Y-K Delta. I think we can do that
19 part.....

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You just need a receipt
22 from the family, don't you or no?

23
24 MR. BRESLFORD: We do a list. We have
25 accountability for the money, signatures but it's not a --
26 there's not a barrier from that standpoint, Elmer.

27
28 MR. SEETOT: Oh, okay.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: In fact, he was at Stevens
31 Village when I had on -- we liked their money.

32
33 MR. SEETOT: Well, one other thing, too, is
34 Shishmaref is pretty much a -- is one of the larger
35 communities west along with Unalakleet and Nome.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: If they don't move to
38 Nome.

39
40 MR. SEETOT: Yeah, I mean Unalakleet and
41 Shishmaref are two of the larger places, communities, you
42 know, that are close to Federal land I think either of these
43 places, you know, would be suited or would be fine with me.

44
45 MR. BUCK: In that case, I prefer Shishmaref,
46 Johnson.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Johnson.

49
50 MR. ENINGOWUK: That'd be fine, then I could

00155

1 stay home.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What does the rest of the
4 Council think of Shishmaref?

5

6 MS. DEGNAN: Well, if the fisheries thing
7 were to go into effect, Unalakleet area is in the fishing
8 area that would be impacted. It's just a consideration. But
9 I don't have any problem where we go. It's fine with me
10 where the majority of the Council wants to meet, that's fine
11 with me.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, my preference was
14 either Teller or Brevig because of the muskoxen. The
15 proposal we didn't go through, so see if people can make
16 recommendations in person about it. But I guess we can hook
17 up people like we did the last time to teleconference, if
18 people wish to testify.

19

20 MR. SEETOT: I think we should appease Rick
21 Blodgett because.....

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Pardon?

24

25 MR. SEETOT:we made plans to go to
26 Teller and then we broke his heart because we didn't stay in
27 his completed rental apartments. I would think Teller would
28 be more suited because they have more facilities there on the
29 road system. I would think Shishmaref would have the same
30 facilities, and also Unalakleet.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. ENINGOWUK: Well, there's stores in
35 Shishmaref and I'm sure it has a trailer that houses quite a
36 few people, for people who are uncomfortable at staying in a
37 home. But I would suggest that you write a letter to the
38 Native village or Native corporation for the people that are
39 coming -- if you do have a meeting in the village, you should
40 write to them and ask if they could assist in housing -- for
41 housing?

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So maybe we should just
44 kind of like make two choices.

45

46 MR. ENINGOWUK: Because a lot of them will
47 say, who's coming and they'll say I want this one to stay at
48 my house.

49

50 MR. SEETOT: Or to see what kind of

00156

1 facilities they have, you know, to accommodate us.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, maybe we can make
4 two choices and say Shishmaref is number 1, but if Shishmaref
5 cannot accommodate then maybe Teller number 2 because they
6 have some sort of lodging over there already available. Is
7 Shishmaref doesn't work out then we can meet in Teller?

8

9 For a number of years we've met in Unalakleet.

10

11 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And I think it's kind of,
14 the fall meeting should alternate from one region to the next
15 region. We could consider, you know, the next fall meeting
16 being at Unalakleet and just sort of bounce those two back
17 and forth since people have different preferences.

18

19 MR. MENDENHALL: White Mountain has a lodge.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, White Mountain also
22 has one.

23

24 MR. BUCK: It's under the school district.
25 It's being leased to the school district and the teachers are
26 staying there.

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: There's good fishing in the
29 fall time over there.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So should we see if
32 Shishmaref can accommodate us and if they don't then we take
33 Teller?

34

35 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Does that sound good? And
38 we just about need a.....

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: A date.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What?

43

44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: A date?

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: A date. Everybody look at
47 your calendar. AFN falls on October 28, 29 and 30th.
48 Northwest Alaska and North Slope are meeting in Anchorage on
49 the 26th and the 27th, it's a joint meeting. And I know a
50 number of people from this group will be going to AFN

00157

1 Convention, so I don't know about the week of October 17th
2 because people probably will have meetings prior to going to
3 AFN Convention that week.

4
5 MS. DEGNAN: Johnson, when's our
6 regional.....

7
8 MR. ENINGOWUK: I hope you guys can stay a
9 whole week.

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: It's ogurook (ph) season.

12
13 MR. ENINGOWUK: When I went to Wales we
14 stayed there for a whole month.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, bring your seal hook
17 with you.

18
19 MR. ENINGOWUK: But October generally is --
20 it's just cold, a cold month but it's usually pretty good
21 toward the end of the month anyway.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do we all agree that the
24 week of October 17th is probably a very bad week to meet with
25 AFN Convention? The week before people are normally -- are
26 there normally a lot of meetings maybe in the villages
27 preparing for AFN or -- I think it's getting pretty close.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, we know that October
30 1st is going to be the red letter day for knowing what the
31 Legislation has done so we need to react to that.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Maybe that second week of
34 October?

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: But again, that doesn't --
37 they're going to be so busy getting the implementation in
38 that they have to take over. So.....

39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We'll have it already in
41 place, I mean we can come then if you want us to.

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay. I'm just thinking
44 about Staff, if that turn on the Federal.....

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: If they takeover then we'd
47 be the first to know about everything in the second week of
48 October.

49
50 MR. ENINGOWUK: Excuse me, Madame Chair, are

00158

1 these other places you guys go to?

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's a good question.
4 The only ones that this team goes to is Northwest Arctic and
5 North Slope and then Cliff goes to Kodiak, so you couldn't
6 overlap with those dates.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So Cliff is not available
9 the first week?

10

11 MR. EDENSHAW: Oh, Madame Chair, I would be,
12 just -- we have to finalize the Kodiak and normally that's --
13 they've scheduled that for a two day meeting, but you know,
14 we're going to travel on a Monday and I'd be -- if the
15 Council is still planning to hold a meeting on the weekend
16 then that's no problem for travel in terms of back to
17 Anchorage for me. I don't know about the other Staff.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: If the Feds takeover, our
20 meeting is probably going to last more than one day.

21

22 MS. DEGNAN: The 8th and 9th of October.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: 8th and 9th. If the Feds
25 takeover by then our meeting is probably going to last more
26 than one day most likely?

27

28 MR. BRESLFORD: (Nods affirmatively)

29

30 MS. DEGNAN: How about the 7th, 8th, 9th,
31 around there?

32

33 MR. MENDENHALL: Usually when I -- during
34 that week, if I go to AFN, I usually travel on the 17th.

35

36 MS. DEGNAN: The 7th.

37

38 MR. ENINGOWUK: 7th.

39

40 MS. DEGNAN: 7, 8 and 9.

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL: Oh, it sounded like -- how
43 about 8th, 9th and 10th?

44

45 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

46

47 MR. MENDENHALL: Because that's a three day
48 weekend for some people that are working.

49

50 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

00159

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: If travel begins on the
2 morning of October 8th, then we can begin in the afternoon of
3 October 8th, even if we need to go through part of the
4 evening. Then that's all day Saturday and then maybe begin
5 leaving Sunday.

6
7 MS. DEGNAN: Wishful thinking.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Wishful thinking, but you
10 know.....

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: I know the Federal people
13 take Columbus Day off, right?

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And no storms at
16 Shishmaref. We don't want to be risky.

17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just on -- do more than --
19 does Cape Smythe fly to Shishmaref?

20
21 MR. ENINGOWUK: Cape Smythe, Bering Air,
22 Grant Air, Baker Aviation -- Haglund -- I believe some go in
23 every day. Ryan Air comes in but they're all freight.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I do know one thing from
26 all -- I travel a lot, they're very flexible in their time.
27 They may -- Bering Air or Cape Smythe will change their route
28 as long as there's enough passengers to -- they may bypass
29 Shishmaref and go to other places and then come back at more
30 appropriate time.

31
32 MR. ENINGOWUK: Cape Smythe makes two flights
33 to Shishmaref every day, one in the morning and one in the
34 evening. I think they arrive like 4:00 o'clock and about
35 10:00 o'clock or something like that.

36
37 MS. DEWHURST: You said they didn't fly on
38 Sundays?

39
40 MR. ENINGOWUK: Pardon me?

41
42 MS. DEWHURST: They don't fly on Sunday?

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: They don't fly on Sunday?

45
46 MR. ENINGOWUK: They fly Sundays, they only
47 have one flight Sunday.

48
49 MR. EDENSHAW: Madame Chair, also, the
50 office, in regards to travel, irregardless of whether they

00160

1 only do it on Saturdays and Sundays or if they don't, the
2 office can setup charters. We can charter from Nome to
3 Shishmaref because not only will -- aside from Johnson, the
4 remaining Council members will have to fly and Staff so in
5 terms of chartering, getting there is no problem.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And the airplanes do make
8 extra sections when they need to if there's a large enough
9 group. It's something that we could check into ahead of
10 time. If you've got a large enough group -- it would take us
11 a couple of planes to bring us over there, larger ones,
12 anyway. And they do make extra sections when there's a
13 larger group.

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: Were you looking at me and
16 saying larger groups?

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We'll just have to put you
19 in a cargo seat.

20
21 MR. BUCK: I move to have the next meeting on
22 October 8th, 9th, 10th in Shishmaref.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there a second?

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: How about Wales?

27
28 MR. KATCHEAK: Second.

29
30 MR. ANUNGAZUK, JR.: The school is open.

31
32 MR. MENDENHALL: No, we don't want to take
33 away from school.

34
35 MR. ANUNGAZUK, JR.: I mean for the weekends.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a second to the
38 motion?

39
40 MS. DEWHURST: Yes.

41
42 MS. DEGNAN: Question.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been called.
45 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed.

50

00161

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Aye. I think it's a three
2 day weekend, we're taking away from the Staff.

3
4 (No opposing responses)

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm in defense of the
7 Federal.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The only one in
10 opposition, right. It passed.

11
12 Okay, we've got that done, it looks like there's
13 nothing more on the schedule.

14
15 MS. DEGNAN: Move to adjourn.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion to
18 adjourn.

19
20 MR. BUCK: Second.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Second by Peter Buck.

23
24 MR. KATCHEAK: Question.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been called.
27 All those in favor of adjournment signify by saying aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
32 sign.

33
34 (No opposing responses)

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The meeting is adjourned.
37 Thanks everybody.

38
39 (Meeting adjourned)

40
41 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

42 * * * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

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6

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 161
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of SEWARD
13 PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL PUBLIC
14 MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 5th day
15 of March, 1999, beginning at the hour of 8:45 o'clock a.m. at
16 the Sitnasuak Board Room, Nome, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me
20 to the best of my knowledge and ability;

21
22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
23 interested in any way in this action.

24
25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 14th day of March,
26 1999.

27
28
29
30
31
32
33

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00